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Illinois Department of Conservation
life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director
Michael B. Witte, Director

4 September 1985

Jerrold Olson
1091 Kinmonth
Joliet, IL 60433

Dear Jerry:

The results of the Avian Investigations of the Pilcher Park Complex have arrived. I have had an opportunity of reviewing the data you submitted and find your report quite interesting. It is good to know that several species, especially the Canada Warblers, are regularly utilizing the Park.

Your recommendations are valid and I hope that the trail complex will not be expanded. The last thing those bird populations need is further fragmentation of dwindling habitat. Thanks for all of your work.

It appears that beginning in 1986 we will be able to officially begin Illinois' Breeding Bird Atlas (without disguising it as a "Challenge") in several northeastern Illinois counties. We anticipate being able to use some of the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund monies for this much-needed project. Therefore, we are already lining up potential observers willing and able to assist with the project next year. With your expertise of birds in northeastern Illinois, we would like to include you in on the project. We will be providing more details in the near future.

Again, many thanks for the report and recommendations for the Pilcher Park Complex. Have a great fall season.

Sincerely,

Vern

Vernon M. Kleen
Avian Ecologist
Division of Forest Resources &
Natural Heritage

cc: Carl Becker

Pilcher Park Bird Census

This is a report on a bird census taken on Pilcher Park and Higinbotham Woods, two land holdings of the Joliet Park District. They are located on the very eastern edge of Joliet, Illinois, and lie North of Route 30. The census was undertaken for the Park District when it was provided a grant from the Illinois Department of Conservation. The census will be used as a management tool as the master plans for these areas are developed. A brief look at the history of the two areas will help provide some insight for why these areas exist the way they do.

Pilcher Park was given to the Joliet Park District in 1920 by Robert Pilcher. It consisted of 326 acres of Mature Maple Oak Forest. A few years before that a Harlow Higinbotham had held the deed with the idea of making it into an arboretum, for he had recognized its beauty and worth and wanted to see the area preserved. Now, with only the exception of trails and roads, Pilcher Park remains relatively the same as when the white settlers came into the area.

Higinbotham Woods has not had the same luck. In the early 1900's it was known as the Big Woods, but before the World War I ended, the Big Woods was clear cut for the valuable black walnut trees in it. Also much of the area along Hickory Creek which was part of Higinbotham Woods was an Indian Village. Following them, early settlers built there. So this area had never had the stability that Pilcher Park has had. Now it is mainly a second growth forest.

In doing the study I thought a comparison of the two woods and their bird populations would add interest to the final results. Therefore the tabulation sheet includes leg and stop data of both woods.

For those who are looking for how bird life has changed, I have included the results of a bird collection that was made in the area for the field museum and published in 1926.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerold W. Olson

Jerold W. Olson

Observer: Jerrold Olson

Address: 1091 Kinmonth
Joliet, IL 60433

AVIAN ECOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

TABULATION SHEET

Site: Pilcher Park and Higinbotham Woods

Year: 1982

Page 1 of 2 (for this year)

Numbers in parenthesis () represent significant "Other Locations and Observations"

	Species (in A.O.U.* order)	Total Number of Different** TRANSECT LEGS Species Recorded P.P. L	P.P. S	CENSUS STOPS Recorded H.W. L	H.W. S	Species Present in Additional Habitats@	Estimated Population	Habitat Preference
1	Great Blue Heron	1	1	0	0	0	Visitor	Water areas
2	Green Heron	2	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Water areas
3	Great Egret	0	0	0	0	0	Visitor	Hickory Creek
4	Canada Goose	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Hickory Creek
5	Mallard	1	1	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Water areas
6	Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Water areas
7	Cooper's Hawk	0	0	1	0	0	7 ?	Upland forest
8	Red-tailed Hawk	0	0	0	1	0	1-5 pairs	Both forest types
9	Broad-winged Hawk	2	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Both forest types
10	Killdeer	1	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Hickory Creek
11	American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	Visitor	Wet low areas
12	Mourning Dove	1	1	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Open park land
13	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	1	1-5 pairs	Upland forest
14	Common Screech Owl	0	0	0	0	0	6-15 pairs	Upland forest
15	Great Horned Owl	1	0	0	0	2	1-5 pairs	Upland forest
16	Chimney Swift	1	0	0	0	0	Visitor	Open areas in parks
17	Belted Kingfisher	1	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Hickory Creek
18	Common Flicker	6	5	0	1	2	16-50 pair	Both forest types
19	Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	3	1	1	2	6-15 pair	Upland forest
20	Red-headed Woodpecker	5	4	1	1	0	6-15 pair	Floodplain forest
21	Hairy Woodpecker	7	5	2	2	2	16-50 pair	Both mature forests
22	Downy Woodpecker	3	6	3	2	2	16-50 pairs	Both forest types
23	Eastern Kingbird	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Open areas
24	Great Crested Flycatcher	7	8	3	3	3	16-50 pair	Both mature forests
25	Eastern Phoebe	0	1	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Open areas & buildings
26	Willow Flycatcher	0	0	0	1	0	Migrant	Not in park
27	Eastern Pewee	6	3	1	1	2	16-50 pair	Both forest types
28	Blue Jay	7	7	6	4	3	16-50 pair	Both forest types
29	American Crow	8	4	4	2	2	16-50 pair	Floodplain areas
30	Black-capped Chickadee	7	5	4	4	3	16-50 pair	Both forest types
31	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	1	1	0	2	6-15 pairs	Upland forest
32	House Wren	3	3	3	2	1	6-15 pairs	Forest edges
33	Gray Catbird	3	1	2	2	2	6-15 pairs	Edge area in forest
34	Brown Thrasher	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Edge area
35	American Robin	7	6	4	3	3	16-50 pair	Both forest types
36	Wood Thrush	3	3	4	3	2	16-50 pair	Upland forest type
37	Veery	2	1	0	0	1	1-5 pairs	Upland forest
38	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Floodplain forest
39	European Starling	0	1	1	0	0	1-5 pairs	Open areas
40	Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1	0	1	0	1-5 pairs	Both forest types

A.O.U. = American Ornithologists' Union

* Indicate the total number of different Transect Legs and Census Stops the species was recorded; five Transect Sets would have about 50 Census Stops and 55 Transect Legs.

If the species occurred in 6 of the "Additional" Census Stops established by the observer for qualitative sampling, enter the number 6 in this column.

Use one of the following [illegible]gories for this column: 1-5 prs; 6-15 prs; 16-50 prs; or > 50 prs.

Observer: Jerrold Olson

Address: 1091 Kinmonth

Joliet, IL 60433

AVIAN ECOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

TABULATION SHEET

Site: Pilcher Park and Higinbotham Woods

Year: 1982

Page 2 of 2 (for this year)

Numbers in parenthesis () represent significant "Other Locations and Observations"

	Species (in A.O.U.* order)	Total Number of Different** TRANSECT LEGS Species Recorded P.P. L	P.P. S	CENSUS STOPS Species Recorded H.W. L	H.W. S	Species Present in Additional Habitats@		
41	Red-eyed Vireo	7	6	6	4	3	16-50 pair	Both forest types
42	Yellow Warbler	0	0	1	0	0	1-5 pairs	Forest edges
43	Ovenbird	1	0	1	1	1	1-5 pairs	Both forest types
44	La Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Floodplain creeks
45	Kentucky Warbler	2	0	1	0	1	1-5 pairs	Upland forest
46	Common Yellowthroat	1	0	2	2	0	1-5 pairs	Forest wet edges
47	Canada Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	1-5 pairs	Upland forest
48	Red-winged Blackbird	1	0	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Marsh areas
49	Orchard Oriole	0	0	1	1	0	105 pairs	Scrub growth areas
50	Northern Oriole	1	1	0	0	1	1-5 pairs	Open forest areas
51	Common Grackle	3	5	6	2	1	16-50 pair	Floodplain areas
52	Brown-headed Cowbird	3	1	3	1	1	6-15 pairs	Both forest types
53	Scarlet Tanager	2	0	1	3	0	6-15 pairs	Upland forest
54	Summer Tanager	0	0	1	0	0	Migrant	Visitor
55	Northern Cardinal	7	4	5	5	3	16-50 pair	Both forest types
56	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	0	1	1	0	1-5 pairs	Scrub growth areas
57	Indigo Bunting	4	4	4	6	3	16-50 pair	Forest vegetation chang
58	American Goldfinch	2	2	2	1	0	6-15 pairs	Floodplain areas
59	Rufous-sided Towhee	1	1	2	3	1	6-15 pairs	Successional areas
60	Field Sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	Visitor	Visitor
61	Chipping Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	1-5 pairs	Open park land
62	Song Sparrow	3	2	2	1	1	6-15 pairs	Wet floodplain areas

A.O.U. = American Ornithologists' Union

* Indicate the total number of different Transect Legs and Census Stops the species was recorded; five Transect Sets would have about 50 Census Stops and 55 Transect Legs. If the species occurred in 6 of the "Additional" Census Stops established by the observe for qualitative sampling, enter the number 6 in this column.

Use one of the following gories for this column: 1-5 prs; 6-15 prs; 16-50 prs; or > 50 prs.

Species Summery

Great Blue Heron

Several of this species were seen during this study, no evidence of nesting, but they were just using the park as a fishery and presumed to be from Lake Renwick colony.

Green Heron

Possible breeder, but only seen twice during the census. Other observations were made of this species in July and August.

Great Egret

A more visible visitor to the Hickory Creek than the Great Blue but also thought to be from Lake Renwick nesting colony.

Canada Goose

First known nesting attempt on park land but was unsuccessful. Possible reason was raccoon predation.

Mallard

An annual breeder along Hickory Creek. During the census only 2 males and 1 female were observed at L2 and L3. On July 17, 1985, a female and 9 young were observed on Hickory Creek.

Wood Duck

None seen during census but a birder reported having seen a mother and 7 young on August 5, 1985, on L3 and L4.

Cooper's Hawk

Only 1 individual was heard in Higinbotham Woods but no definite conclusions could be drawn.

Red-tailed Hawk

Only one sighting of this species was in Higinbotham Woods (at S8). On June 26, 1985, Milosevich found one nest on upland outer edge.

Broad-winged Hawk

Two observations were made of this species on the lower flood plain during the census, but several other times they could be heard calling later in the morning near the Nature Center.

Killdeer

One pair were found using a gravel bar area along Hickory Creek on L2.

American Woodcock

The only sighting of this species was by Milosevich in Pilcher Park on June 26. We are considering this a visitor. Until this year Woodcock were found in Higinbotham Woods holding territory. April trips there produced no individual.

Mourning Dove

Observations made of this species were close to active picnic grounds S3 and the birds were using the open ground areas for feeding.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

This species is a possible breeder for it was seen in the upland special study area near S7.

Common Screech Owl

A year round resident and often seen in the winter when brought in by using tape recorders. Most of the sightings of this species occurred in the floodplains forest. Not seen during census.

Great Horned Owl

Two single sightings of a bird in the upland forest on the special survey spot were made during the census. Other records this year were a calling made in February and three Great Horned's seen leaving Pine grove on May 13.

Chimney Swift

The species was classified as a visitor for all the ones seen were thought to be coming in from nearby Joliet.

Belted Kingfisher

One pair was reported by Milosevich in census period. Probably the same pair was observed in early July near dam on Hickory Creek.

Common Flicker

There was quite a difference in the numbers of this species seen in the Pilcher Park and Higinbotham Woods. Definite preference was shown for the mature forest of Pilcher Park.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Expected to have seen more of this species but it appeared to have a low preference for floodplain forest. Possibly the type of trees that are around the Nature Center and in the uplands were reasons for its preference.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Most of the sightings for this species in Pilcher Park were recorded along Hickory Creek in which they were utilizing dead standing trees. In Higinbotham Woods only found on S5 and L6. On L6 a pair of red-headed and red-bellied argued over a large dead elm.

Hairy Woodpecker

The most common woodpecker found throughout Pilcher Park showing no preference for either major habitat. Numbers indicate preference for the mature forest over secondary growth of Higinbotham.

Downy Woodpecker

This species was found more often in Pilcher Park (3 legs and 6 stops) than in Higinbotham Woods (3 legs and 2 stops) which was surprising for Higinbotham Woods was thought to be a more suitable habitat.

Eastern Kingbird

Not seen on any of the routes but a pair were observed along Hobbs Parkway flying around a Sycamore tree on June 23.

Great Crested Flycatcher

This species was observed more in Pilcher Park with 8 out of 8 stops and 7 out of 8 legs being recorded. In Higinbotham Woods they were observed at half the legs (3 out of 6) and stops (3 out of 6) showing a preference for mature canopy forest land.

Eastern Phoebe

One male of this species began calling late April and continued to call most of June. No mate was ever seen and/or nest found, and it was thought that he had no mate.

Willow Flycatcher

This bird was not seen in the park but was calling from a clump of bushes under the power lines on June 1. It was not heard again and was considered a migrant.

Eastern Wood Peewee

This bird showed a great preference for the upland forest. On June 16 as many as 5 were recorded on L6.

Blue Jay

A bird showing no preference for floodplain or upland forest and also found equally to use Higinbotham Woods and Pilcher Park. One nest with 3 young destroyed in June near nature center.

American Crow

Most crow seen were using open areas connected with the woodland either in picnic grounds or nearby field next to Higinbotham Woods. The exception was when 15 crows were observed chasing an owl in the upland forest area L7.

Black-capped Chickadee

A common species occurring in Pilcher Park in 7 out of 8 legs and 5 out of 8 stops. In Higinbotham Woods it was found in 4 out of 6 legs and 4 out of 6 stops. Showed little preference for any certain habitat.

White-breasted Nuthatch

This species showed a definite preference for Pilcher Park over Higinbotham Woods. Six occurrances in Pilcher Park with just 1 in Higinbotham Woods.

House Wren

This species made little use of the interior parts of the forest except where an opening occurred with edge effects.

Catbird

The census results indicaate that about equal populations of this species were found in both woods. All areas were where edge effects were found.

Brown Thrasher

This species was not seen on any of the census routes but observed on July 21, 1985, in Bird Haven area. Two adults and an immature bird were observed.

Robin

Since the robin is a common yard bird in the suburbs, it was surprising to find so many utilizing the woodlands. The distribution was spread over both upland and floodplain woods.

Wood Thrush

The species showed a definite preference for woods with a well developed understore and some ground cover. About equal populations were found in both woods.

Veery

Listed as a migrant in the 1926 bird collection, the upland forest of Pilcher has 4 to 5 pairs. One nest was found by Milosevich with a cowbird. For more details see 1985 study done by Joe Milosevich on ~~Eastern~~ Western Will County forested areas.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Observed other years during breeding season but not found this year; however, Milosevich reported two sightings of singing males on June 6 and June 26, 1985.

Starling

This species was found only at S4 which is a picnic grounds with water fountain next to a horse barn area. Probable visitor in cavities in this area.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Only three observations were made of the species at S1 and L3 in Pilcher Park and S5 in Higinbotham Woods indicating a small population.

Red-eyed Virio

Very common in Pilcher Park with it being found at 7 out of the 8 legs and 6 out of 8 stops but not showing any preference either for upland or floodplain. Also equally as common in Higinbotham Woods with it being found in 6 out of 6 legs and 4 out of 6 stops.

Yellow Warbler

A pair of this species was observed on L3 flying across from the brush under the power lies into the edge of the woods.

Ovenbird

Two different individuals were found. In Higinbotham Woods a male clearly was holding territory near S6. In Pilcher Park the calling male's song was somewhat different from most oven birds and we thought it might be an immature bird. It was found on L3.

La Waterthrush

A male was heard singing along a creek on June 22. Milosevich had heard another singing male a short distance away on another creek in June believed to be nesting.

Kentucky Warbler

The species was found only in the upland forest of Pilcher Park on L6 and L7. One nest was found by Milosevich with 4 young birds just off the trail after S7. n adult with immature was seen later before S7. Estimated population of 4 to 5 pairs.

Common Yellowthroat

Sightings of this bird occurred at L2 in Pilcher Park and at S6, L6 and L7. Calls came from the fringe areas of the park near water.

Canada Warbler

One singing male of this species was found in the upland area near S7 close to where one had been observed on May 13. A search for the pair was made on other special investigations but they were not found.

Red-winged Blackbird

This species nested in the cattails at the pond near the statue which is the southwest corner of the park. It was part of a group that nest across the road 100 feet away in a small marsh. About 3 to 4 pair nest there.

Orchard Oriole

Only two observations were made of this species and both in Higinbotham Woods. At S2 an immature male chased a female Red-billed Grosbeak. Possibly it was the same bird singing on the next leg.

Northern Oriole

This bird was not found in the interiors of the parks, but was heard calling on the fringes of the park at L2, S3, and special studies area in uplands.

Common Grackle

This species was found in the area along the Hickory Creek at S2, S2, and S3. Several were found at the picnic area at S4. Most seen in Higinbotham Woods were near the fringes of the area.

Cowbird

It was interesting to see that an equal number of observations occurred in both woods (3 legs and 1 stop). Milosevich found a young cowbird in a Veery's nest June 6.

Scarlet Tanager

In Pilcher Park the species could only be found in the upland forest. On June 16 3 males were heard singing on L6. In Higinbotham the birds seem more evenly distributed. The heavy traffic pattern in lower Pilcher Park could possibly account for this.

Summer Tanager

One male was found singing along Frances Road in Higinbotham Woods. Special return trips to this area could not locate this bird so it was considered a visitor.

Northern Cardinal

When the 1926 list of the birds of the area was put together, the cardinal was recorded as a resident with only two pairs living in the area. Now it is very common having been seen at 12 out of 14 stops and 9 out of 14 legs in both woods.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

This species was only found in Higinbotham Woods near S2 and was a male. At S2 a female was seen eating mulberries and being chased by a male Orchard Oriole

Indigo Bunting

Although found throughout the park, this species seem to prefer areas where different vegetation groups come together which would account for slightly higher population in Higinbotham Woods. Seen at Pilcher Park on 4 legs and 4 stops; Higinbotham Woods at 4 legs and 6 stops.

American Goldfinch

This species was tallied 4 times in Pilcher Park and 3 in Higinbotham Woods. These sightings were on the fringes of the park land.

Rufous-sided Towhee

This species showed a definite preference for early successful stages of plant succession; thus, a larger population existed in Higinbotham Woods (2 legs and 3 stops) over Pilcher Park (1 leg and 1 stop).

Field Sparrow

This species was thought to be nesting in the park, but was found at S3 singing from under the power lines outside the park.

Chipping Sparrow

The only location where this species was found was at S4 (the flowing well) which had mowed areas.

Song Sparrow

This species occurred only near water and then usually was using area where a lot of herbaceous plants were located.

Recommendations for Management

Pilcher Park Complex

Having completed the bird census of Pilcher Park and Higinbothan Woods, the areas we knew were good nesting areas in the park proved to be even better than presumed. This area is the upland forest areas of Pilcher Park.

Two years ago a citizens committee met and discussed the management and maintenance of the total Pilcher Park Complex. Discussion occurred about the question of opening the upper park to vehicle traffic. At that time the group strongly opposed the opening of these roads. This recommendation can only be reiterated by this report.

Another important point being recommended is that any further trail developement should be prohibited. These would only reduce prime nesting areas by breaking them into smaller units.

The final recommendation concerns future developement around the park. As this occurs the boundary should be watched and trails and backyard encroachment should be prevented.

The recommendation for Higinbothan Woods is that a master plan be drawn up with the idea that open space for wildlife is important and that any entry into the woods should be evaluated with loss of habitat as a consideration.

BIRDS OF THE ARBORETUM AND ADJACENT PARK LANDS

Early in the present century, when the Arboretum was still called the Forest of Arden, and the Higinbotham Woods was the "Big Woods" in all that the name implies, three collectors for the Field Museum, Messrs. Meinke, Dewey and Swarth, spent nearly two years in making a collection of the bird-life of the region. These specimens are now preserved in the Field Museum. A list of the species noted was published in the Joliet News and is here reprinted partly for its historic value and partly as a list of our native birds. The removal of the timber in the Big Woods has caused several of the species to withraw from the region, but others have come in and these latter have been added to the list through the kindness of Messrs. C. E. Spicer and Everett C. Shaw.

LIST OF SPECIES

Pied-billed Grebe. Migrant.
Double-crested Cormorant. Migrant.
Blue-winged Teal. Breeding (?)
Wood Duck. Three birds seen.
American Bittern. Migrant
Great Blue Heron. Breeding (?)
Green Heron. Breeding.
Black-crowned Night Heron. Breeding.
Sand-hill Crane. Migrant.
Virginia Rail. Migrant.
South Carolina Rail. Migrant.
American Woodcock. Breeding.
Wilson Snipe. Migrant.
Pectoral Sandpiper. Migrant.
Yellow legs. Migrant.
Solitary Sandpiper. Migrant.
Bartramian Sandpiper. Breeding.
Spotted Sandpiper. Breeding.
Killdeer. Breeding.
Bob White. Breeding.
Prairie Hen. Breeding.
Mourning Dove. Breeding.
Turkey Vulture. Two birds seen.
Marsh Hawk. Two birds seen.
Sharp-shinned Hawk. Migrant.
Cooper Hawk. Breeding.
Red-tailed Hawk. Breeding.
Red-shouldered Hawk. Breeding (?)
Broad-winged Hawk. Breeding.
Sparrow Hawk. Breeding.
American Osprey. Migrant.
American long-eared Owl. Only one seen.
Barred Owl. Breeding.
Acadian Owl. One seen.
Screech Owl. Breeding.
Great Horned Owl. Breeding.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Breeding.
Black-billed Cuckoo. Breeding.
Kingfisher. Breeding.
Hairy Woodpecker. Breeding.
Northern Downy Woodpecker. Breeding.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Migrant.
Red-headed Woodpecker. Breeding.
Red-bellied Woodpecker. Breeding.
Northern Flicker. Breeding.
Whip-poor-will. Breeding.
Night Hawk. Breeding.
Chimney Swift. Breeding.
Ruby-throated Humming-bird. Breeding.
King-bird. Breeding.
Crested Flycatcher. Breeding.

Phoebe. Breeding.
Olive-sided Flycatcher. Migrant.
Wood Pewee. Breeding.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Migrant.
Acadian Flycatcher. Breeding.
Traill's Flycatcher. Migrant.
Least Flycatcher. Migrant.
Prairie Horned Lark. Breeding.
Blue Jay. Breeding.
American Crow. Breeding.
Bobolink. Breeding.
Cowbird. Breeding.
Red-winged Blackbird. Breeding.
Meadow Lark. Breeding.
Orchard Oriole. Possibly breeding.
Baltimore Oriole. Breeding.
Bronzed Grackle. Breeding.
Purple Grackle. Breeding.
Purple Finch. Migrant.
American Crossbill. Migrant.
English Sparrow. Breeding.
American Goldfinch. Breeding.
Pine Siskin. Migrant.
Vesper Sparrow. Breeding.
Savana Sparrow. Breeding.
Grasshopper Sparrow. Breeding.
Henslow Sparrow. Breeding.
Lark Sparrow. Breeding.
White-crowned Sparrow. Migrant.
White-throated Sparrow. Migrant.
Chipping Sparrow. Breeding (?)
Field Sparrow. Breeding.
Slate-colored Junco. Migrant.
Song Sparrow. Breeding.
Lincoln Sparrow. Migrant.
Swamp Sparrow. Migrant.
Fox Sparrow. One bird.
Towhee. Breeding.
Cardinal. Two pair seen. (now resident).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Migrant.
Indigo Bunting. Breeding.
Dickcissel. Breeding.
Scarlet Tanager. Breeding.
Purple Martin. Seen, no nests. (now breeding).
Cliff Swallow. Seen, no nests.
Barn Swallow. Breeding.
Bank Swallow. Breeding.
Rough-winged Swallow. Breeding.
Cedar Waxwing. Breeding.
Migrant Shrike. Breeding.
Red-eyed Vireo. Breeding.
Philadelphia Vireo. Migrant.
Warbling Vireo. Breeding (?)
Yellow-throated Vireo. Breeding.
Bell's Vireo. Breeding.
Black and White Warbler. Migrant.
Prothonotory Warbler. Migrant.
Blue-winged Warbler. Breeding (?)
Golden-winged Warbler. Migrant.
Nashville Warbler. Migrant.
Orange-crowned Warbler. Migrant.
Tennessee Warbler. Migrant.
Northern Parula Warbler. Migrant.
Cape May Warbler. Migrant.
Yellow Warbler. Breeding.
Black-throated Blue Warbler. Migrant.
Myrtle Warbler. Migrant.
Magnolia Warbler. Migrant.
Cerulean Warbler. Breeding.
Chestnut-sided Warbler. Migrant.
Bay-breasted Warbler. Migrant.
Black-poll Warbler. Migrant.
Blackburnian Warbler. Migrant.
Black-throated Green Warbler. Migrant.
Pine Warbler. Migrant.
Palm Warbler. Migrant.
Oven Bird. Breeding.
Wyoming Water Thrush. Migrant.
Kentucky Warbler. Breeding.
Connecticut Warbler. Migrant.
Mourning Warbler. Migrant.
Northern Yellow-throat. Breeding.
Yellow-breasted Chat. Breeding.
Wilsonian Warbler. Migrant.
Canadian Warbler. Migrant.
American Redstart. Breeding.
Mockingbird. Breeding.
Catbird. Breeding.
Brown Thrasher. Breeding.
Carolina Wren. Breeding.
Western House Wren. Breeding.
Winter Wren. Migrant.
Short-billed Marsh Wren. One bird seen.
Long-billed Marsh Wren. Migrant.
Brown Creeper. Migrant.
White-breasted Nuthatch. Breeding.
Canada Nuthatch. Migrant.
Black-capped Chickadee. Breeding.
Golden-crowned Kinglet. Migrant.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Migrant.
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. Breeding.
Wood Thrush. Breeding.
Willow Thrush. [illegible]nt.
Gray-cheeked Thrush. Migrant.
Olive-backed Thrush. Migrant.
Hermit Thrush. Migrant.
American Robin. Breeding.

ADDITIONS

American Eared Grebe. Migrant; rare.
Loon. Migrant.
Herring gull. Visitor.
Ring-billed Gull. Winter Visitant.
Bonaparte's Gull. Migrant.
Caspian Tern. Migrant; rare.
Common Tern. Migrant.
Black Tern. Migrant.
American Merganser. Migrant.
Hooded Merganser. Migrant.
Mallard. Breeding.
Black Duck. Migrant.
Gadwell. Migrant; rare.
Baldpate. Migrant; rare.
Green-winged Teal. Migrant.
Shoveler. Migrant.
Pintail. Migrant.
Canvas-back. Migrant.
Red-head. Migrant.
Lesser Scaup. Migrant.
Ring-necked Duck. Migrant.
American Golden-eye. Migrant.
Ruddy Duck. Migrant.
Canada Goose. Migrant.
Marbled Godwit. Migrant.
Least Bittern. Breeding.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Breeding (?)
King Rail. Migrant.
Sora Rail. Breeding (?)
Florida Gallinule. Breeding.
American Coot. Breeding.
Lesser Yellow-legs. Migrant.
Alder Flycatcher. Migrant.
Barn Owl. Resident.
Evening Grosbeak. Rare visitant.
Blue Grosbeak. Rare.
Redpoll. Winter visitant.
Tree Swallow. Breeding.
White-eyed Vireo. Rare.
Blue-headed Vireo. Rare.
Rusty Blackbird. Rare.
Worm-eaten Warbler. Migrant.
Louisiana Water Thrush. Migrant.
Tufted Titmouse Winter.
Veery. Migrant.

RARE WILDFLOWERS IN THE PARK

In the Systematic Collection of Herbaceous Perennials in Higinbotham Woods, South, more than a thousand specimens representing nearly five hundred species of plants have been planted. Among these are many widely known by name or reputation though rarely found in ordinary collections. It is impossible to mention all at this time but a few of the more striking are mentioned below and others will be noted in a future report.

Aquilegia coerulea. Rocky Mountain columbine. The State flower of Colorado.

Dictamnus fraxinella. Gas plant. On still evenings it gives off a gas that will burn.

Dipsacus fullonum. Fuller's teasel. The plant that is still used to raise a nap on cloth.

Lathyrus tuberosus. Tuberous sweet pea. The only member of its family to bear potato-like tubers.

Preliminary Report

Breeding Bird Inventory

This is a preliminary report on the Breeding Bird Survey made for the Department of Conservation under a grant to the Joliet Park District. The area covered in this study was Pilcher Park and Higinbothan Woods, land holding of the District. For the purposes of gathering field data, routes were set up using the trails and roads that cross-sect the area. Other areas that were felted to be unique yet not censored on a regular route were covered by special studies. All routes were covered four times during the month of June 1985.

A total of 57 species of birds were found in these park lands areas, 48 of these species are believed to be breeding there.

One unexpected bird found was a male Summer Tanager singing on June 18, 1985, but no other sighting of this bird were recorded.

Several Great Blue Herons and Great Egret were seen along Hickory Creek, but they were all assumed to be from the colony from Lake Renwich.

Some of the birds that were considered significant breeding populations were:

Broad-winged hawks	Ovenbird
Hairy Woodpeckers	La. Waterthrust
Yellow-throated Vireo	Eastern Woodpeewee
Kentucky Warbler	Blue-gray Natcatcher
Canada Warbler	Red-eyed vireo
Veery	Great crested Flycatcher
Scarlet Tanager	

The final report will be submitted by August 31, 1985

Respectively Submitted

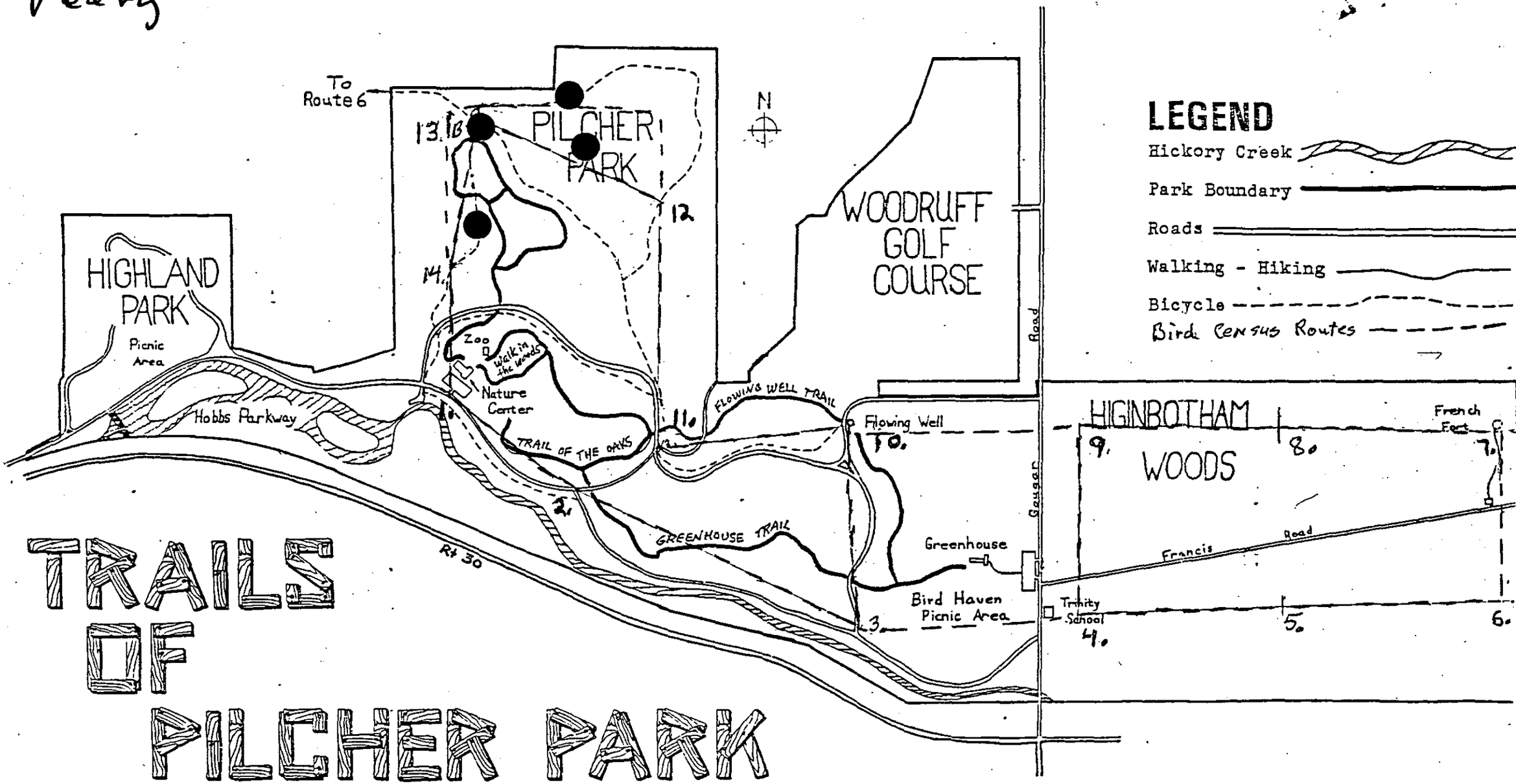
Jerrold W. Olson

Jerrold W. Olson

FOREST RESOURCES AND NATURAL HERITAGE

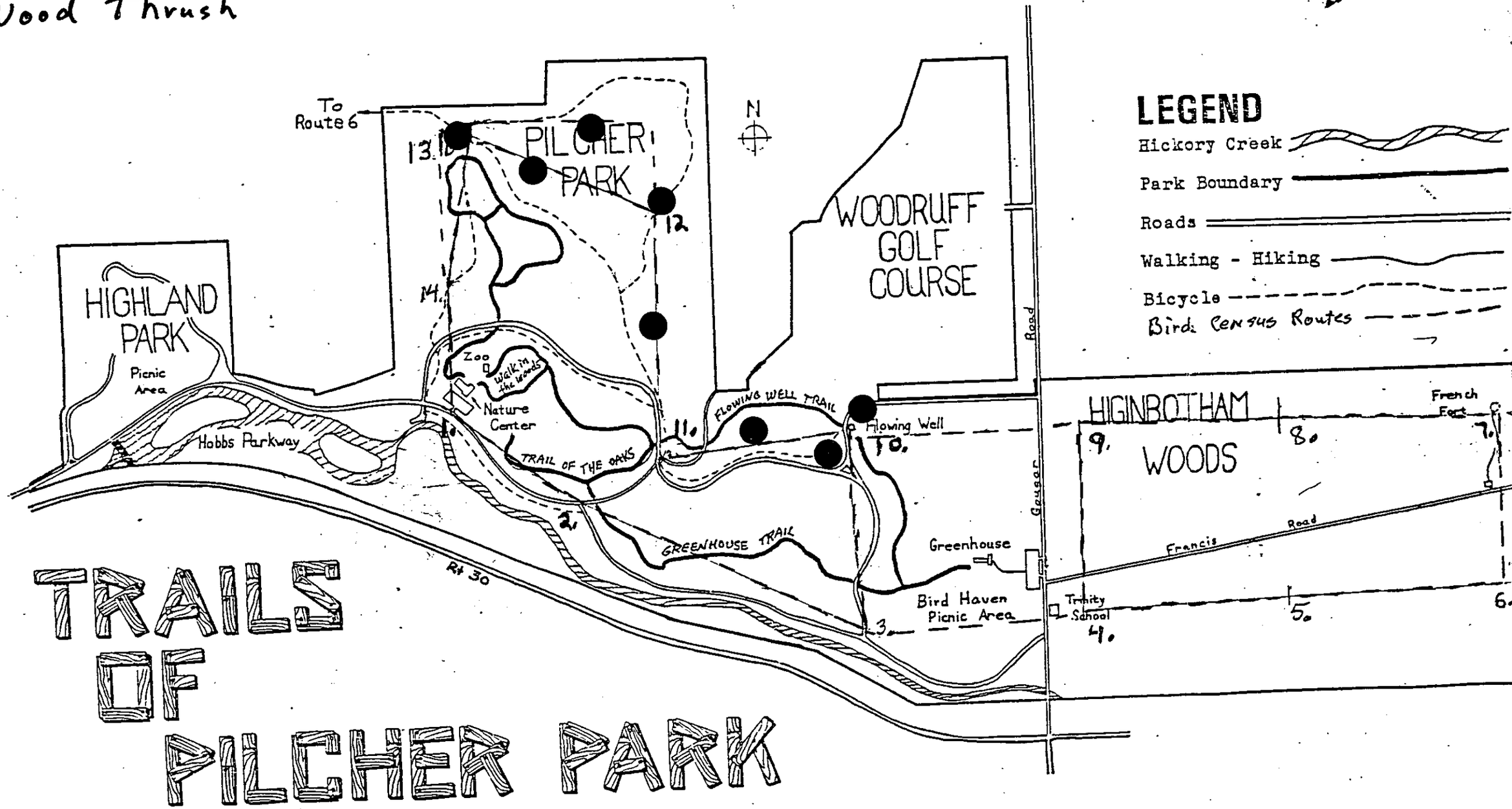
AUG 5 1985

Veery



TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Wood Thrush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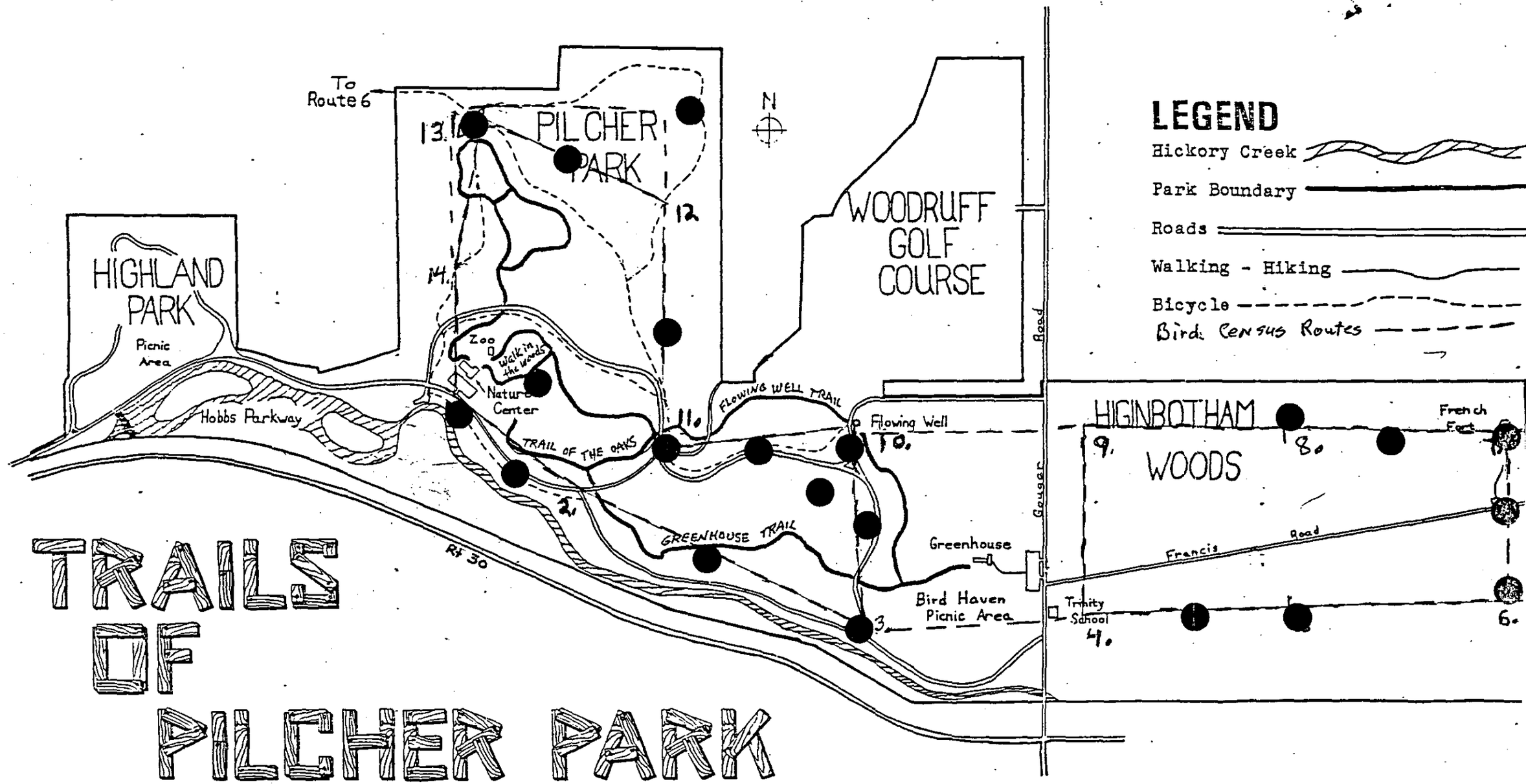
Am. Robin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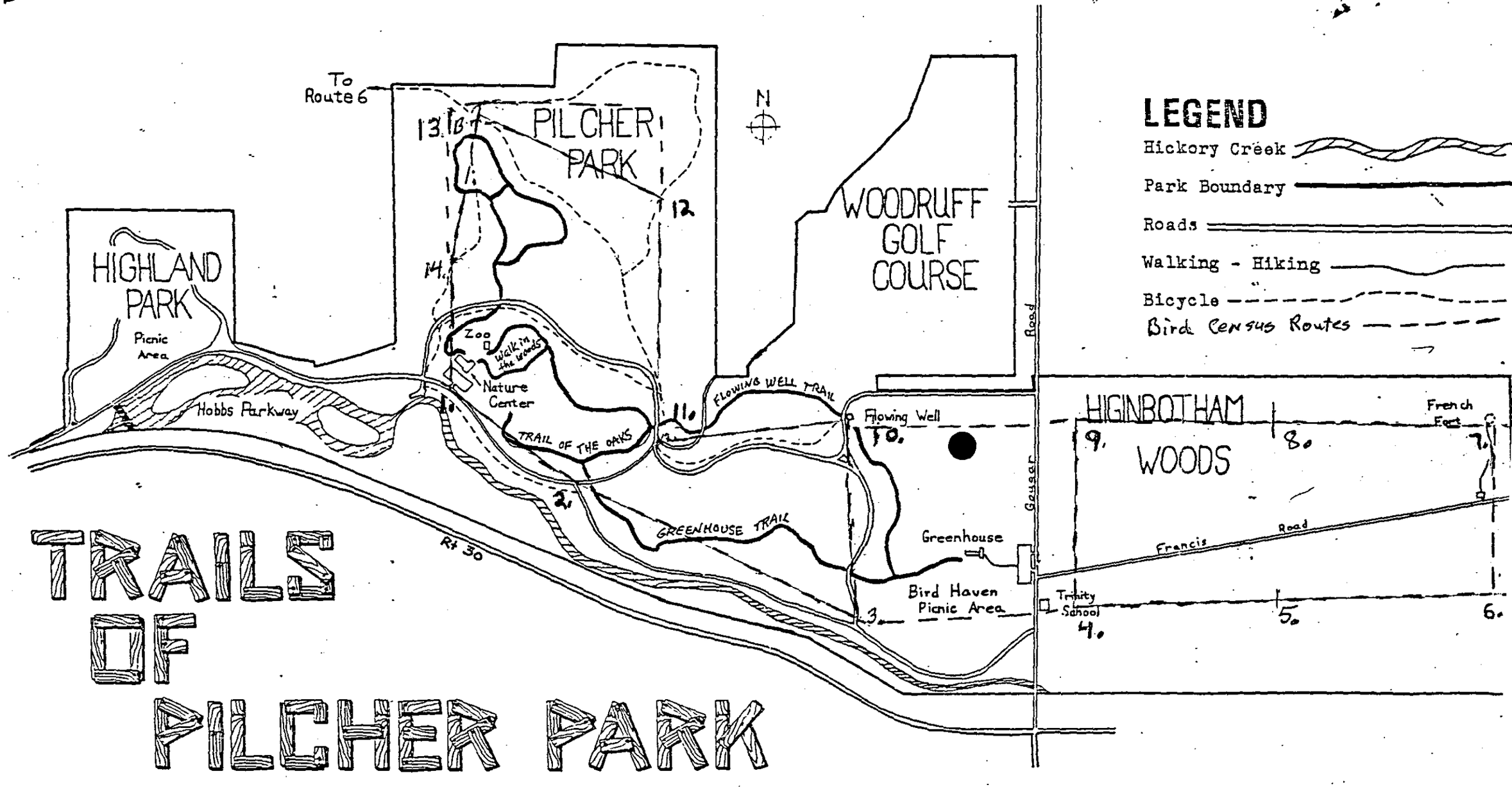
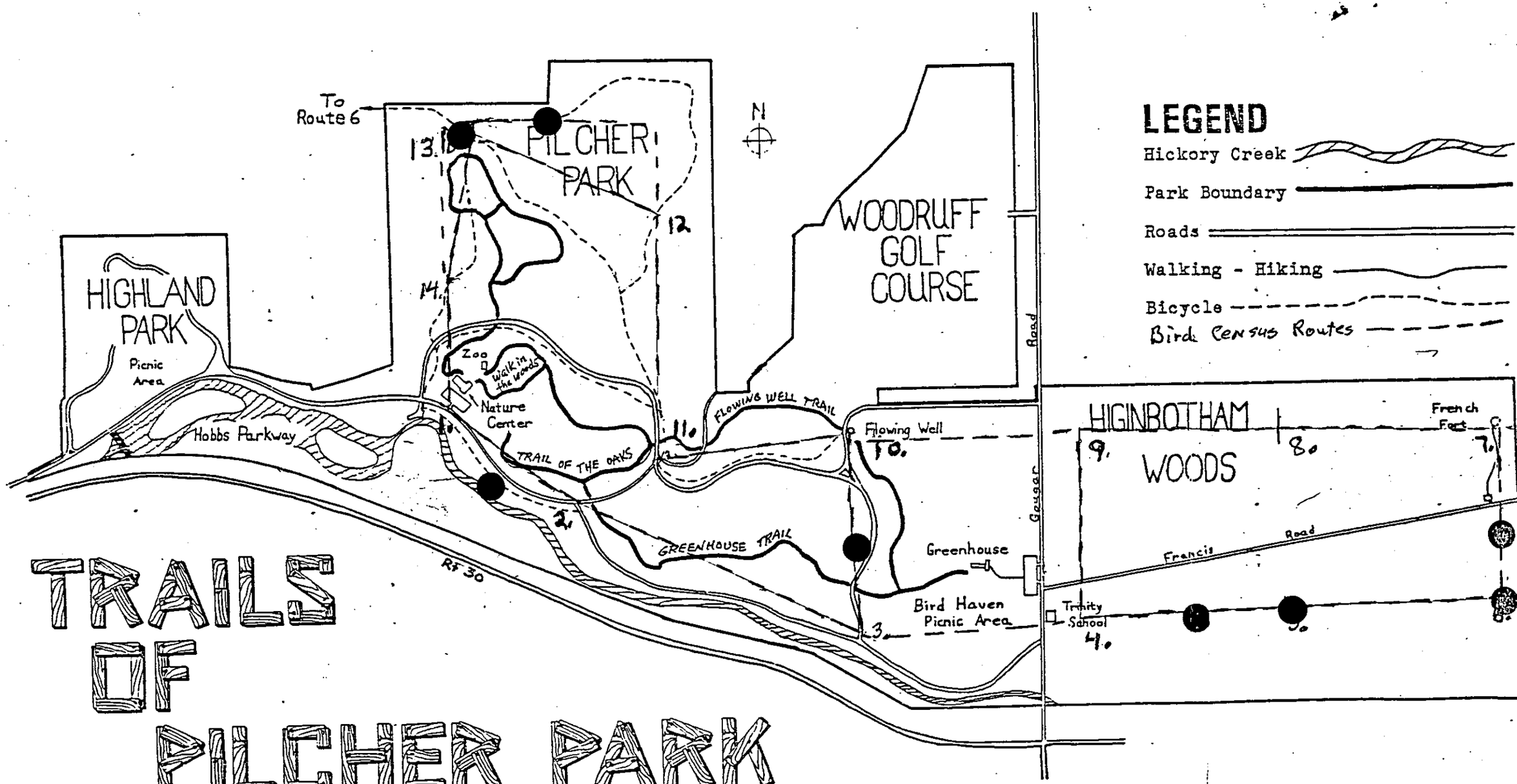
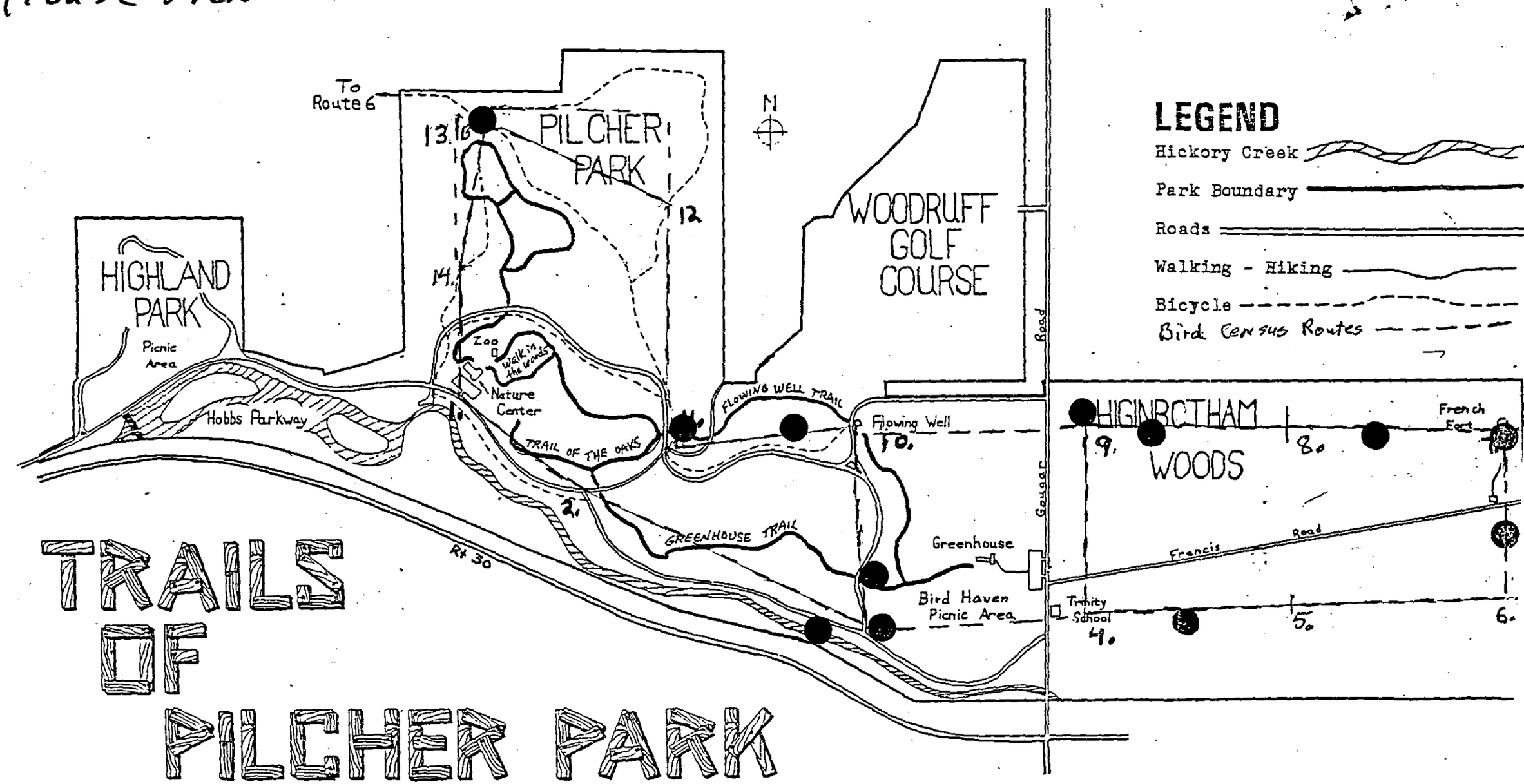
Brown Thrasher





TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

House Wren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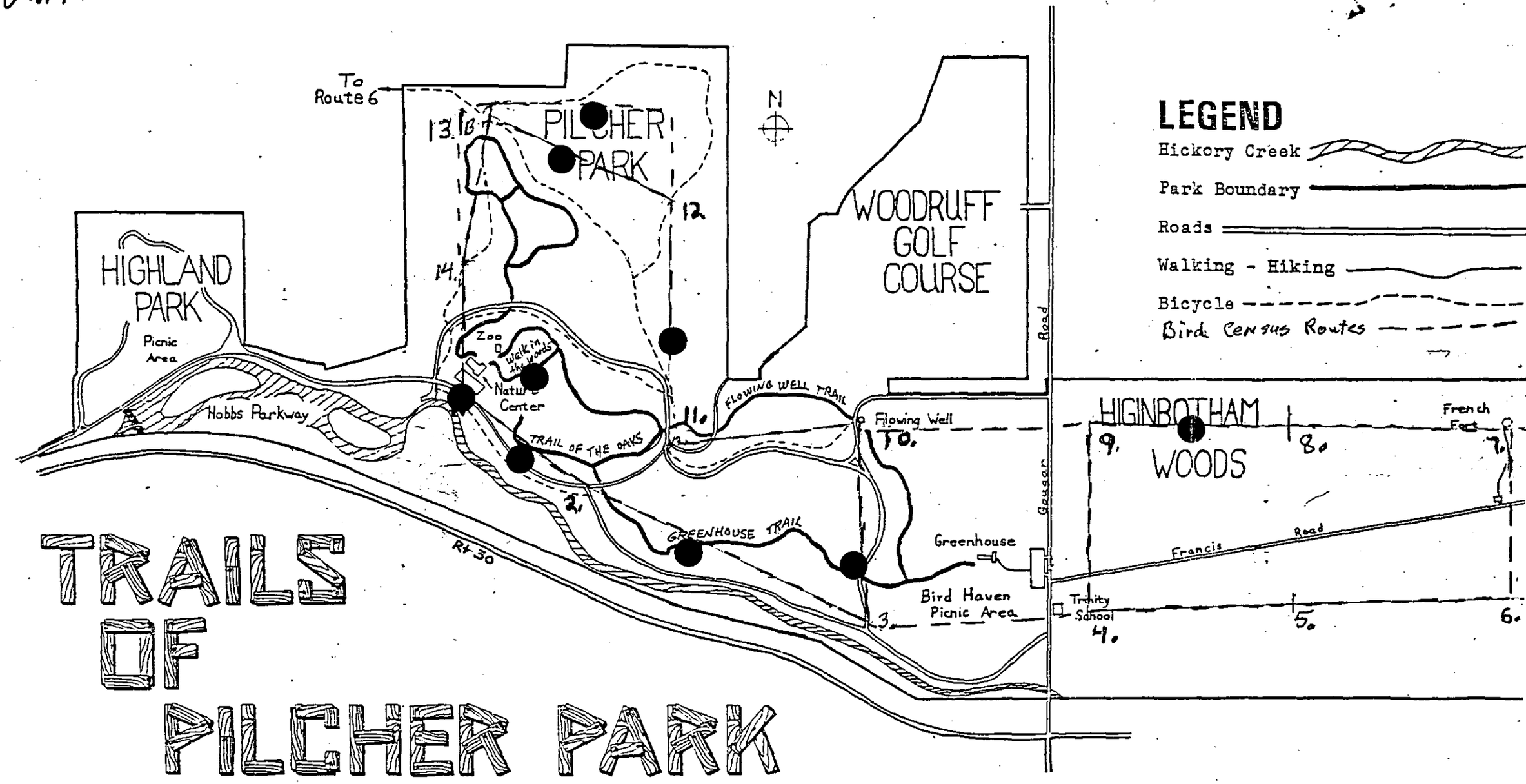
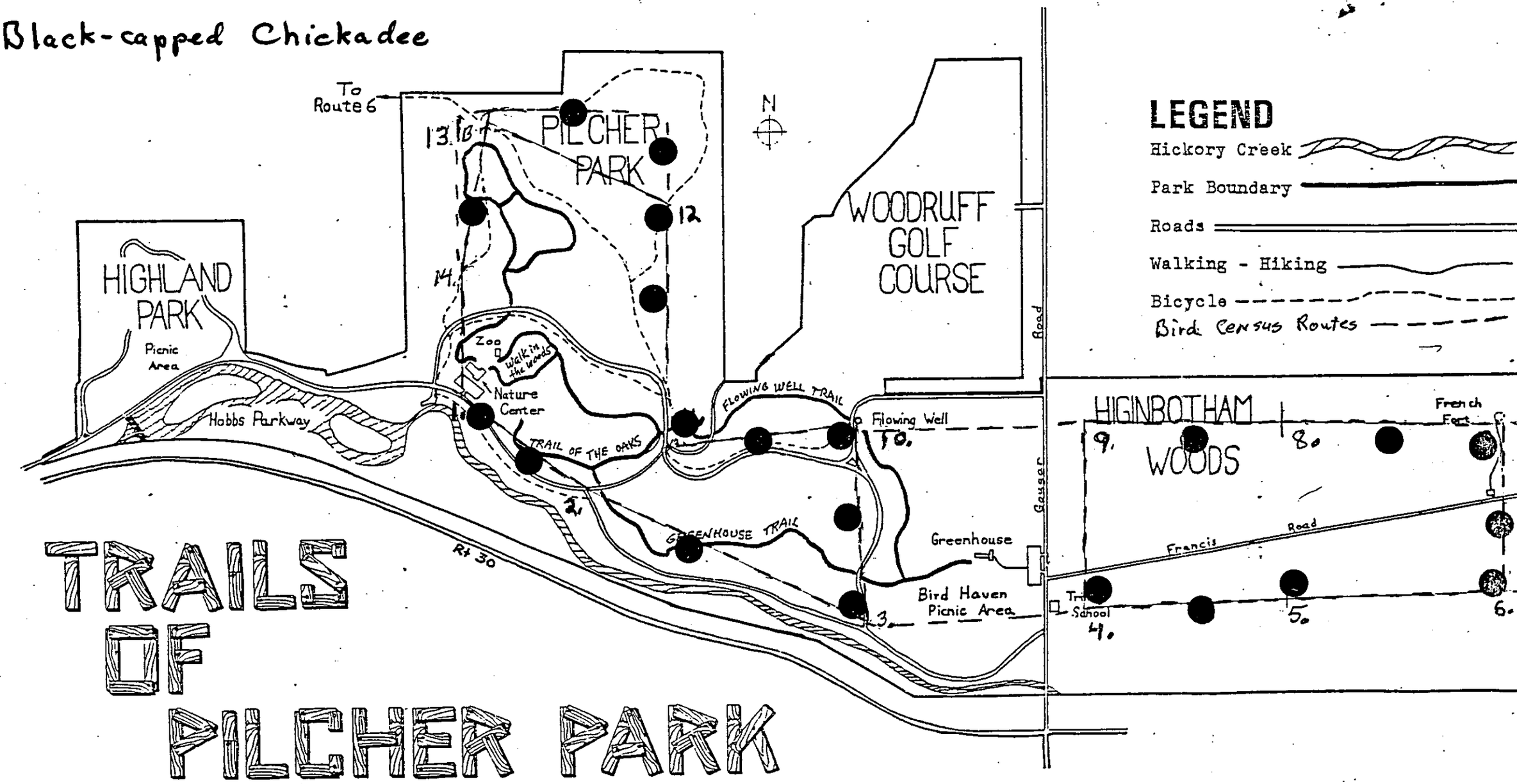
White-breasted Nuthatch

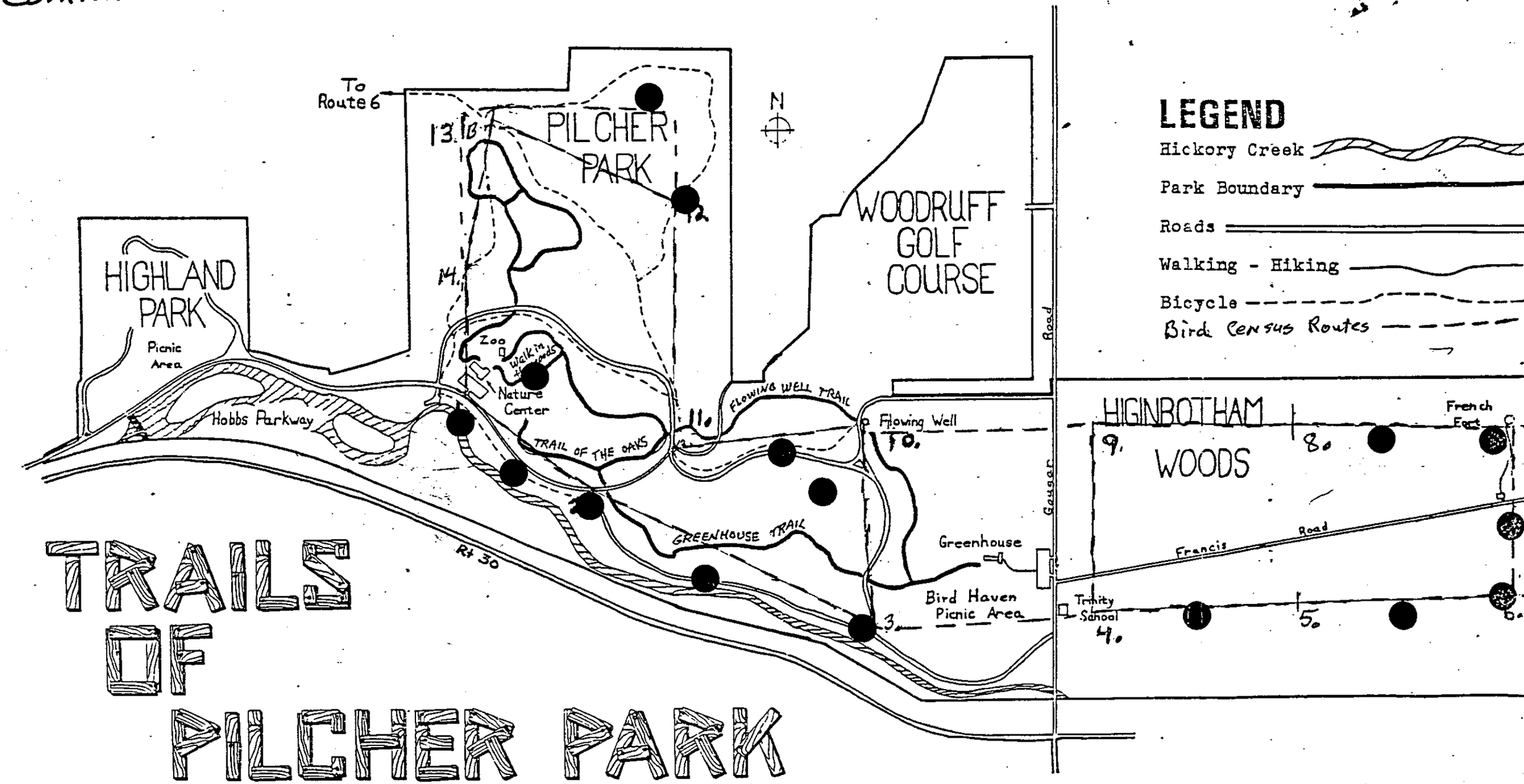


Black-capped Chickadee



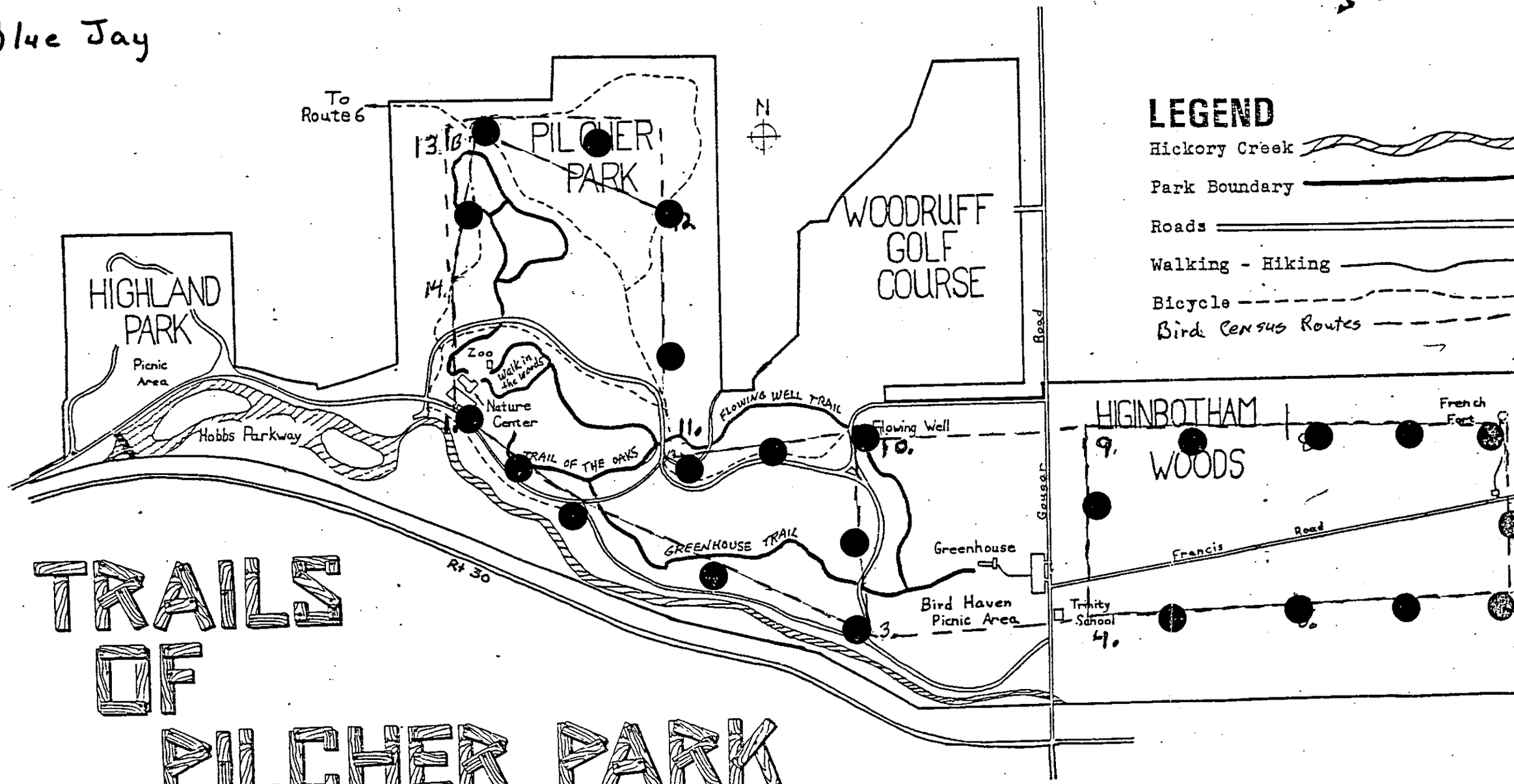
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Common Crow



TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Blue Jay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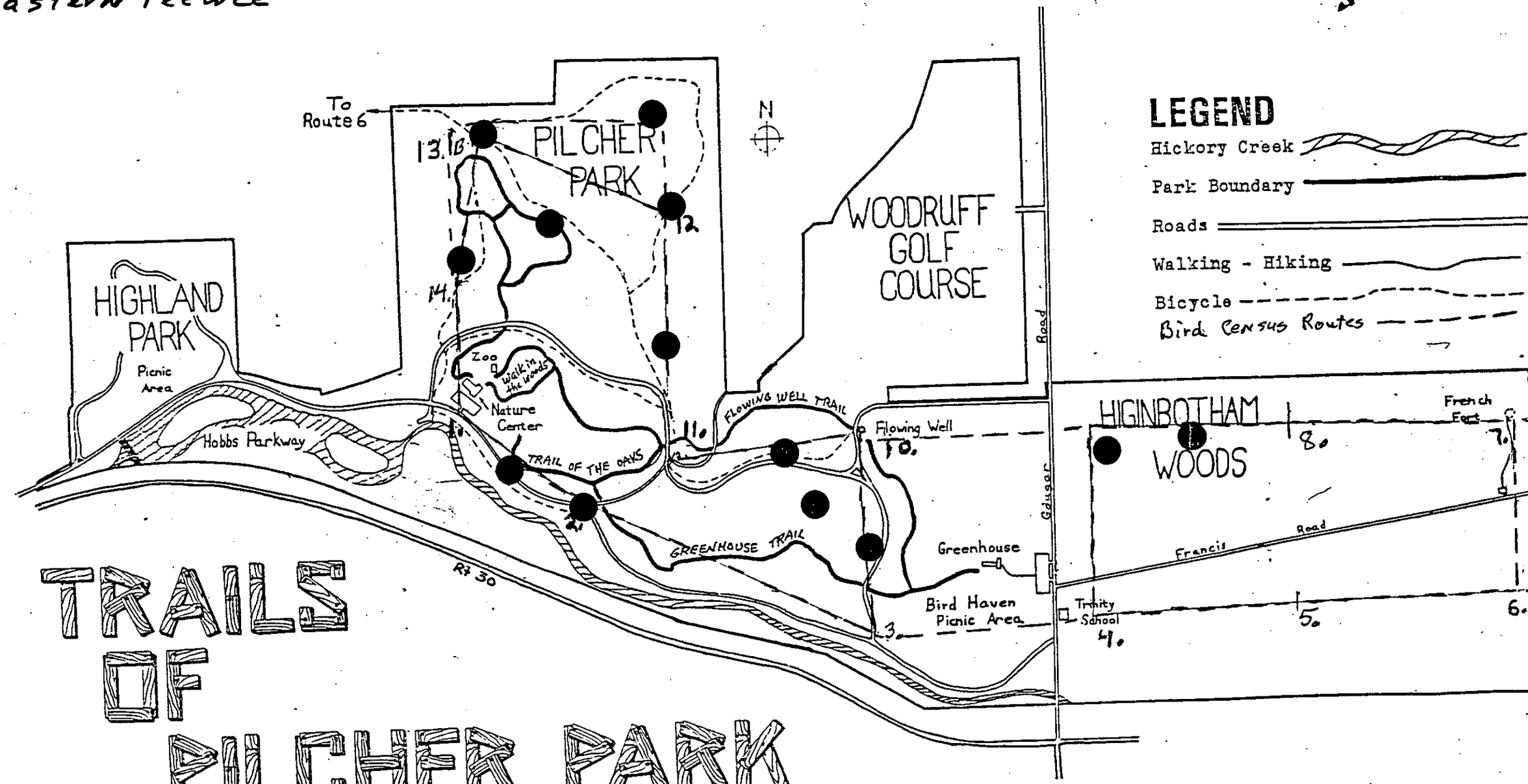
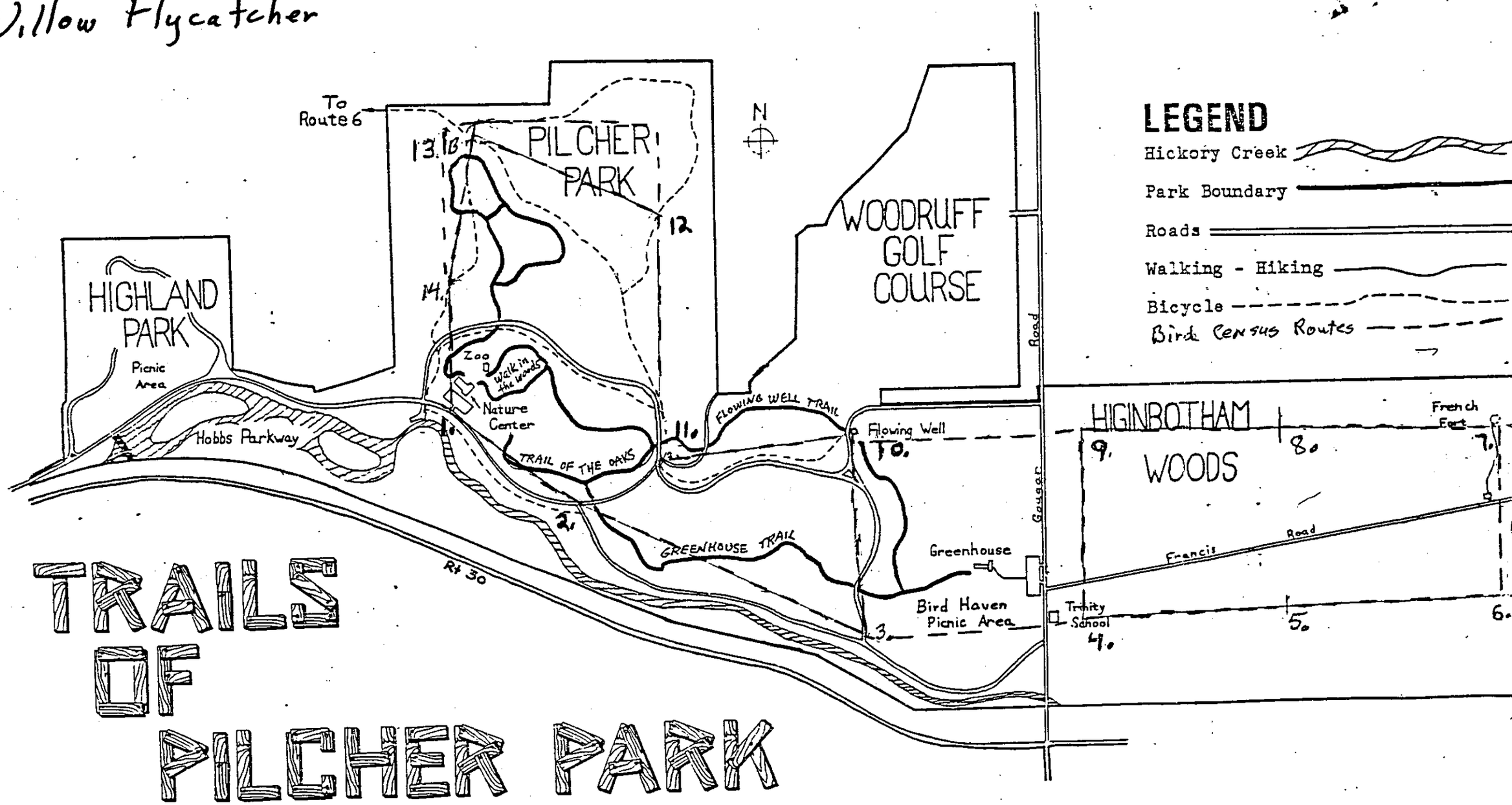
Eastern Peewee

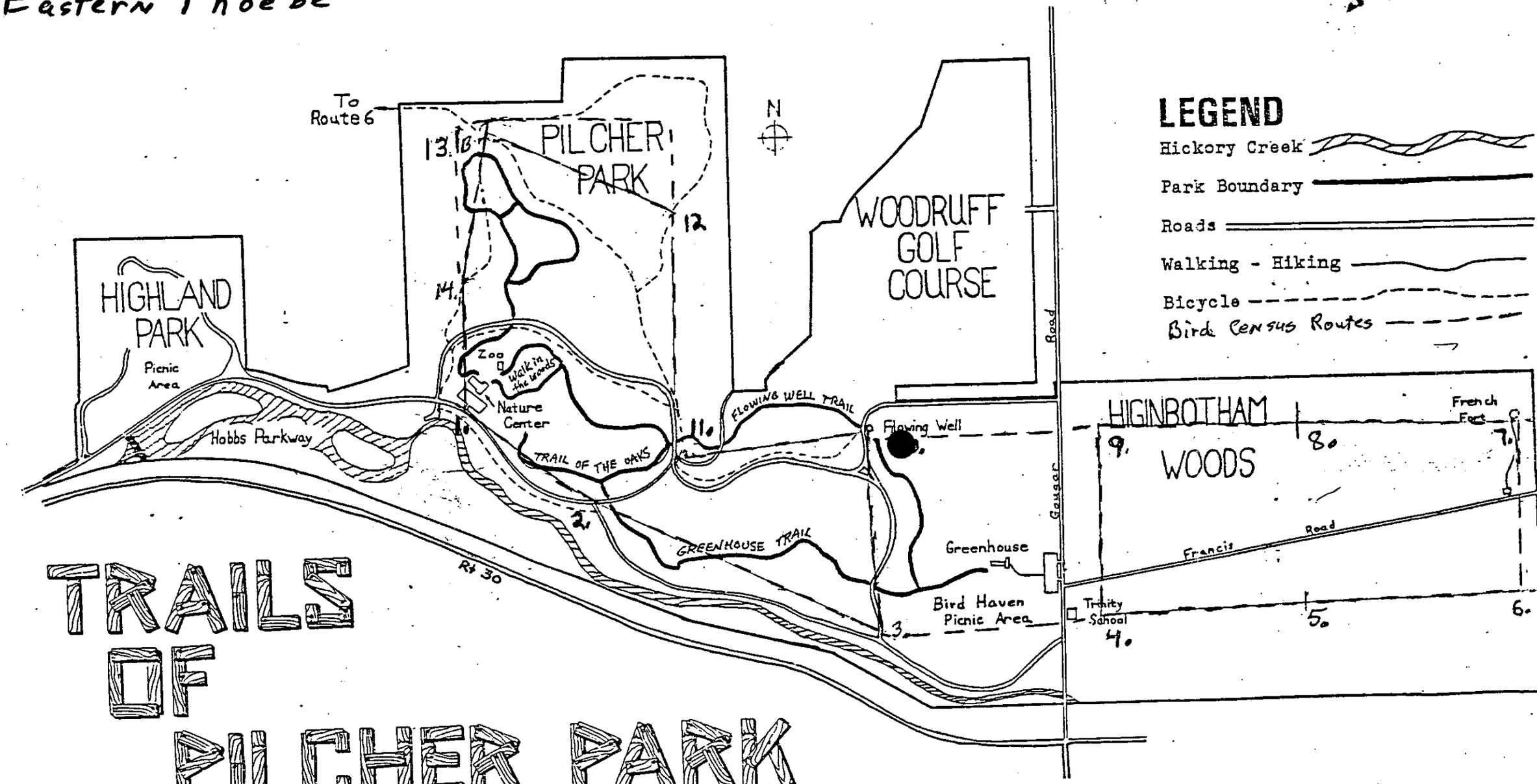


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Willow Flycatcher

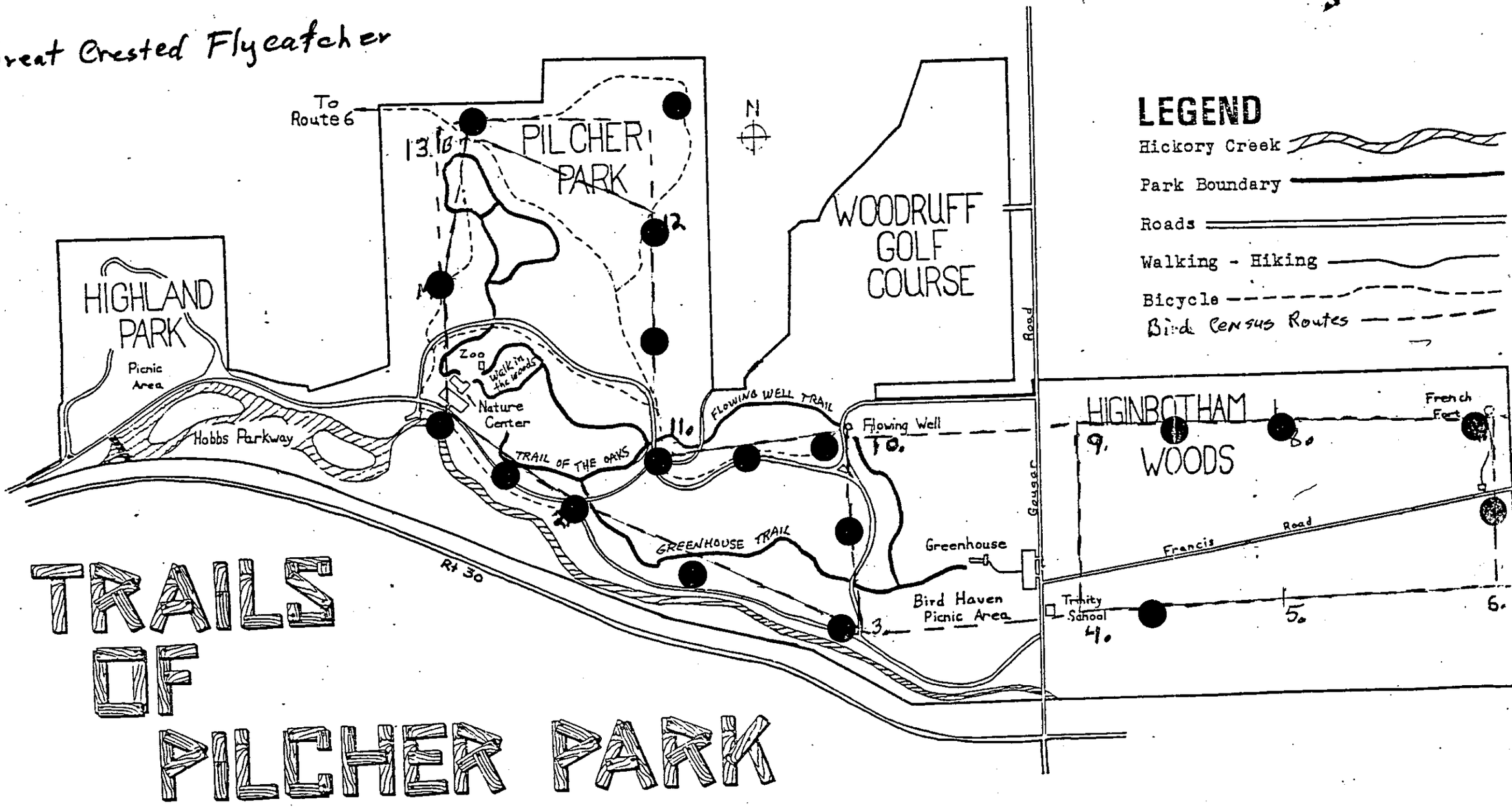


Eastern Phoebe

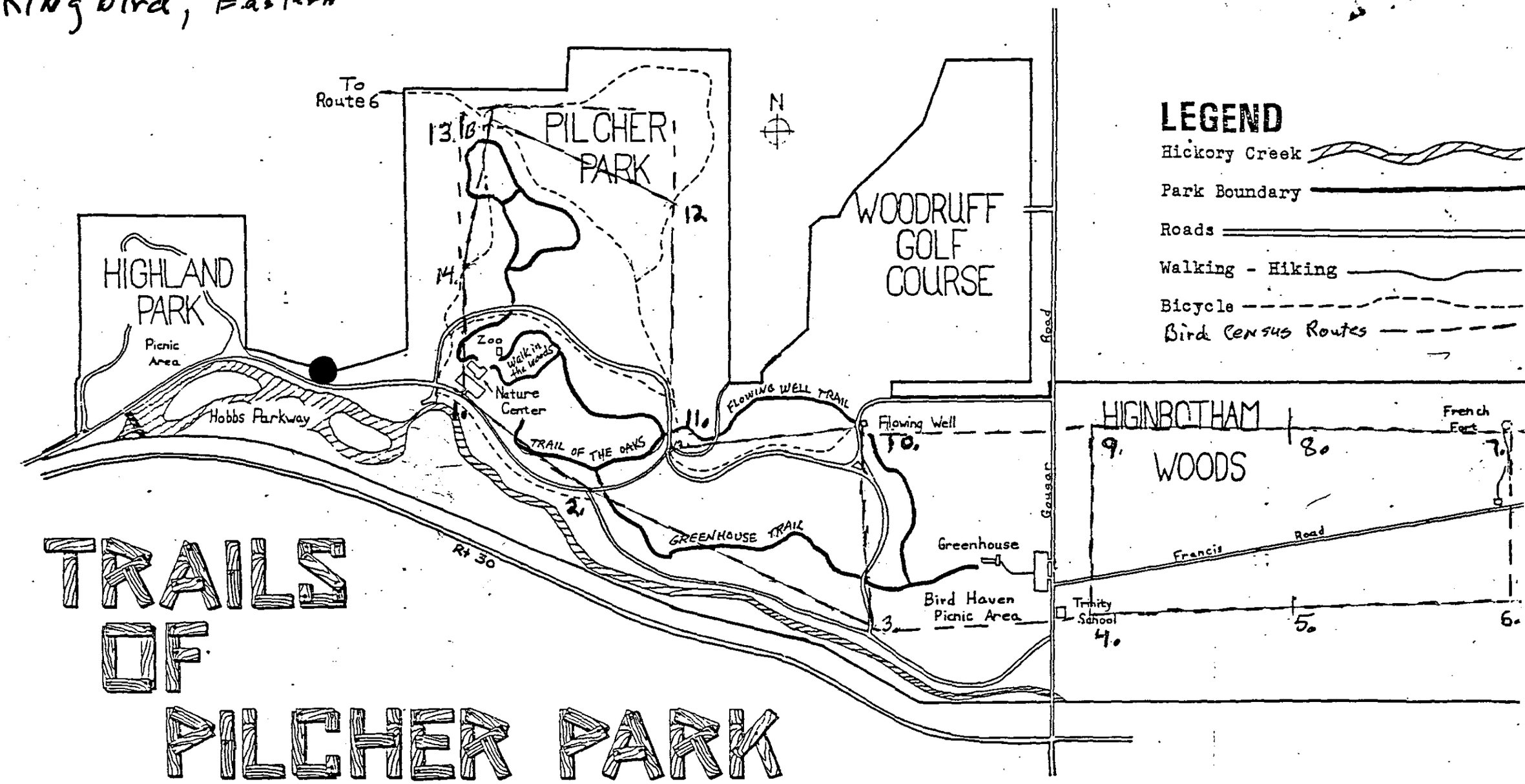


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

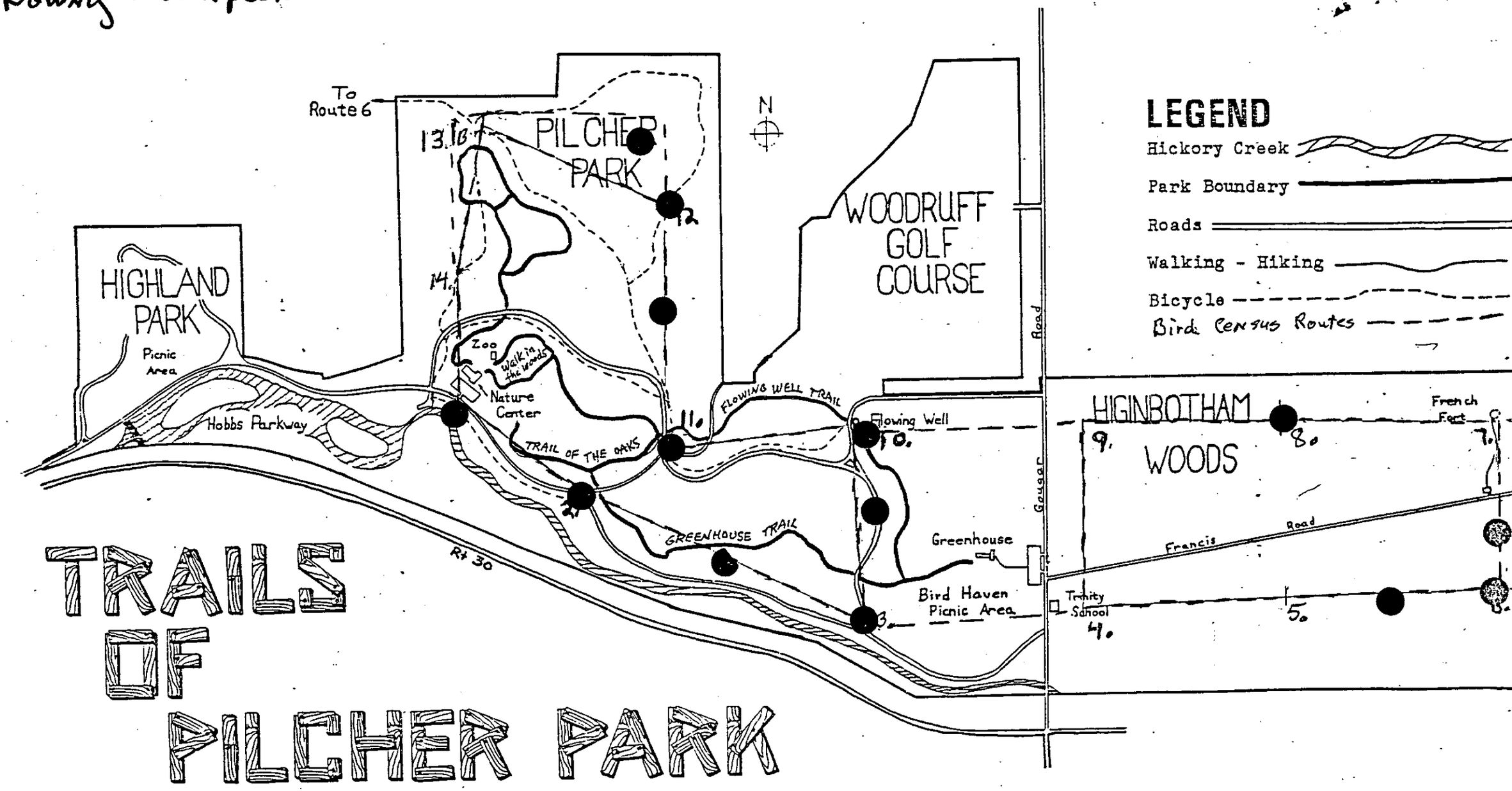
Great Crested Flycatcher



Kingbird, Eastern

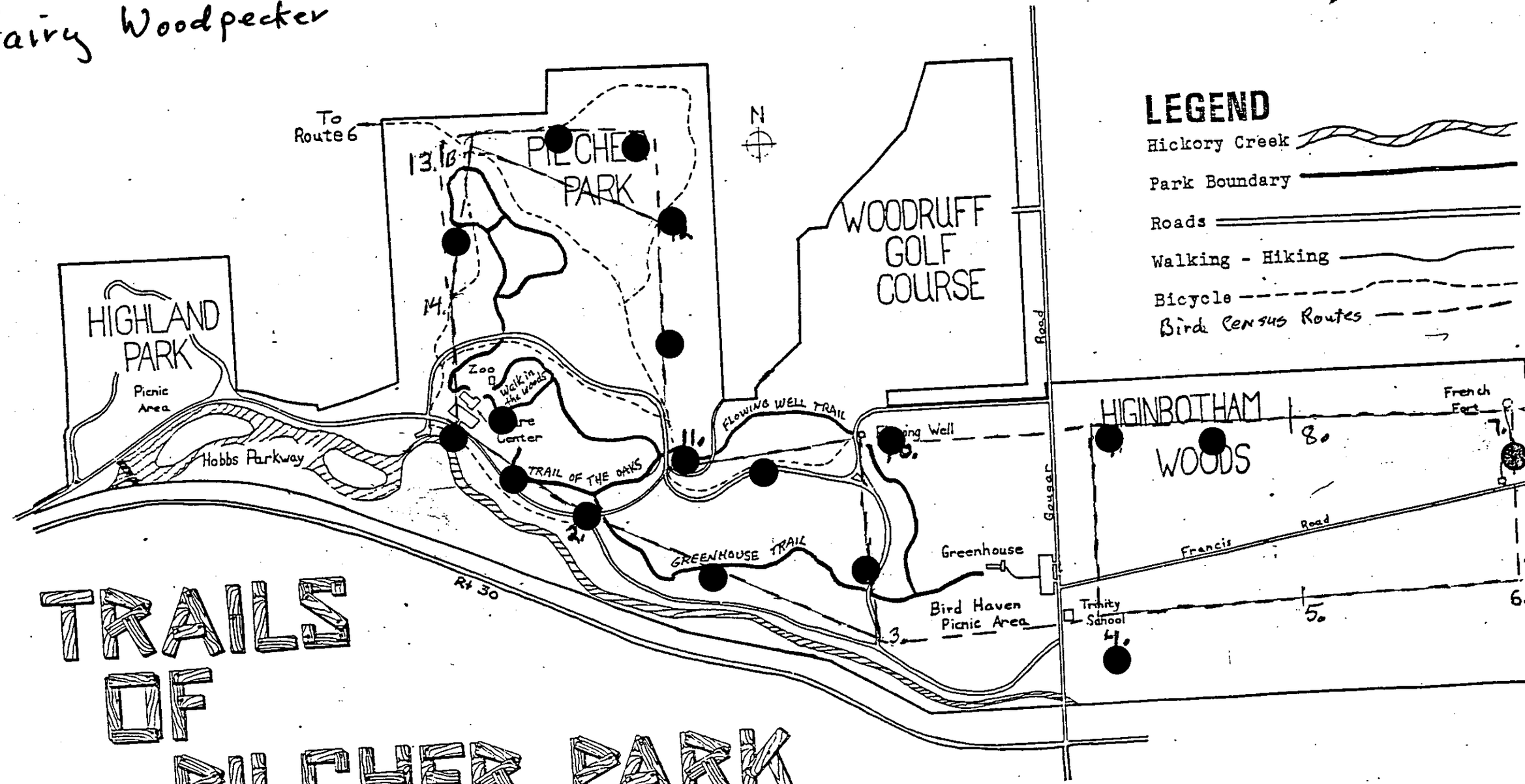


Downy Woodpecker



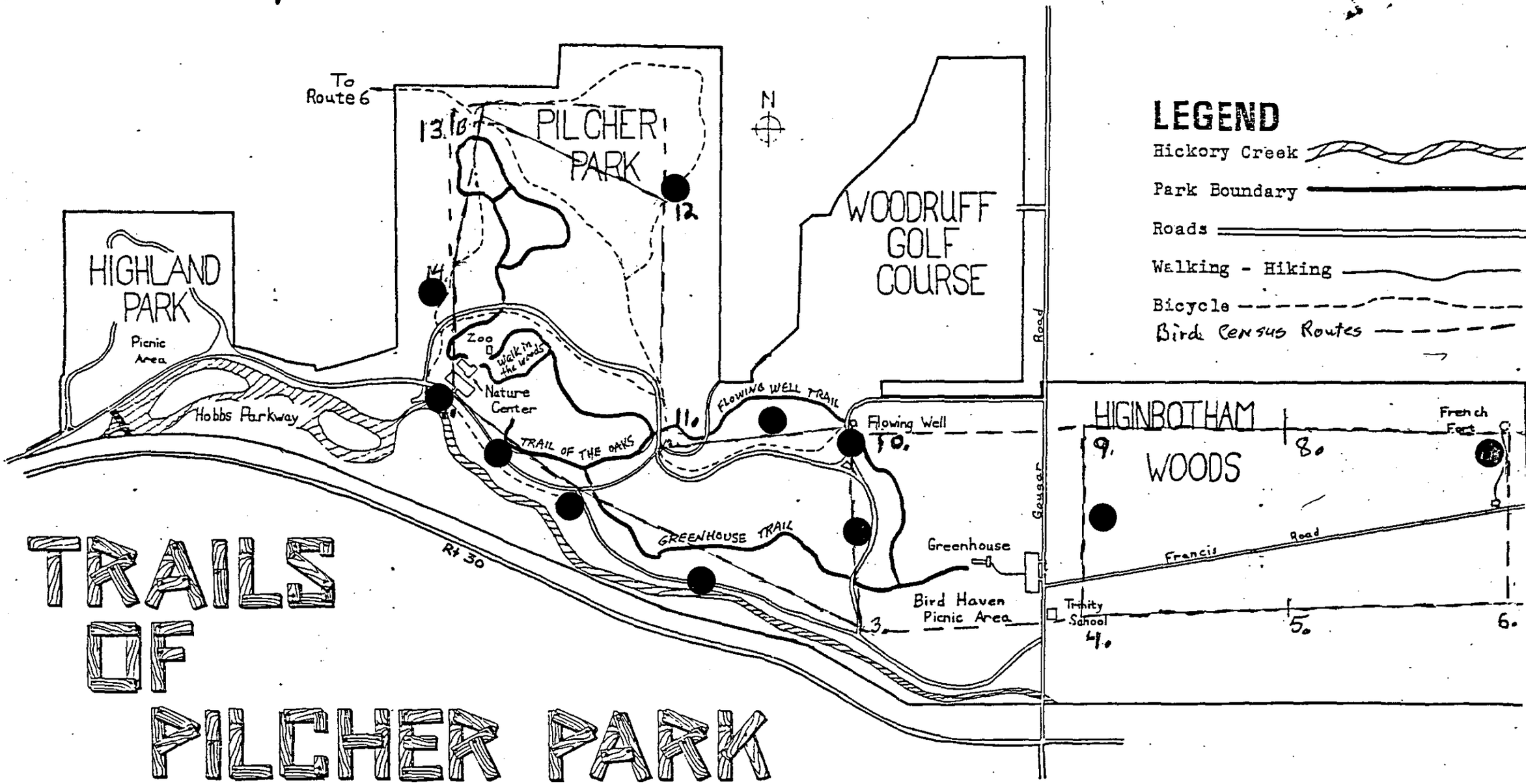
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Hairy Woodpecker

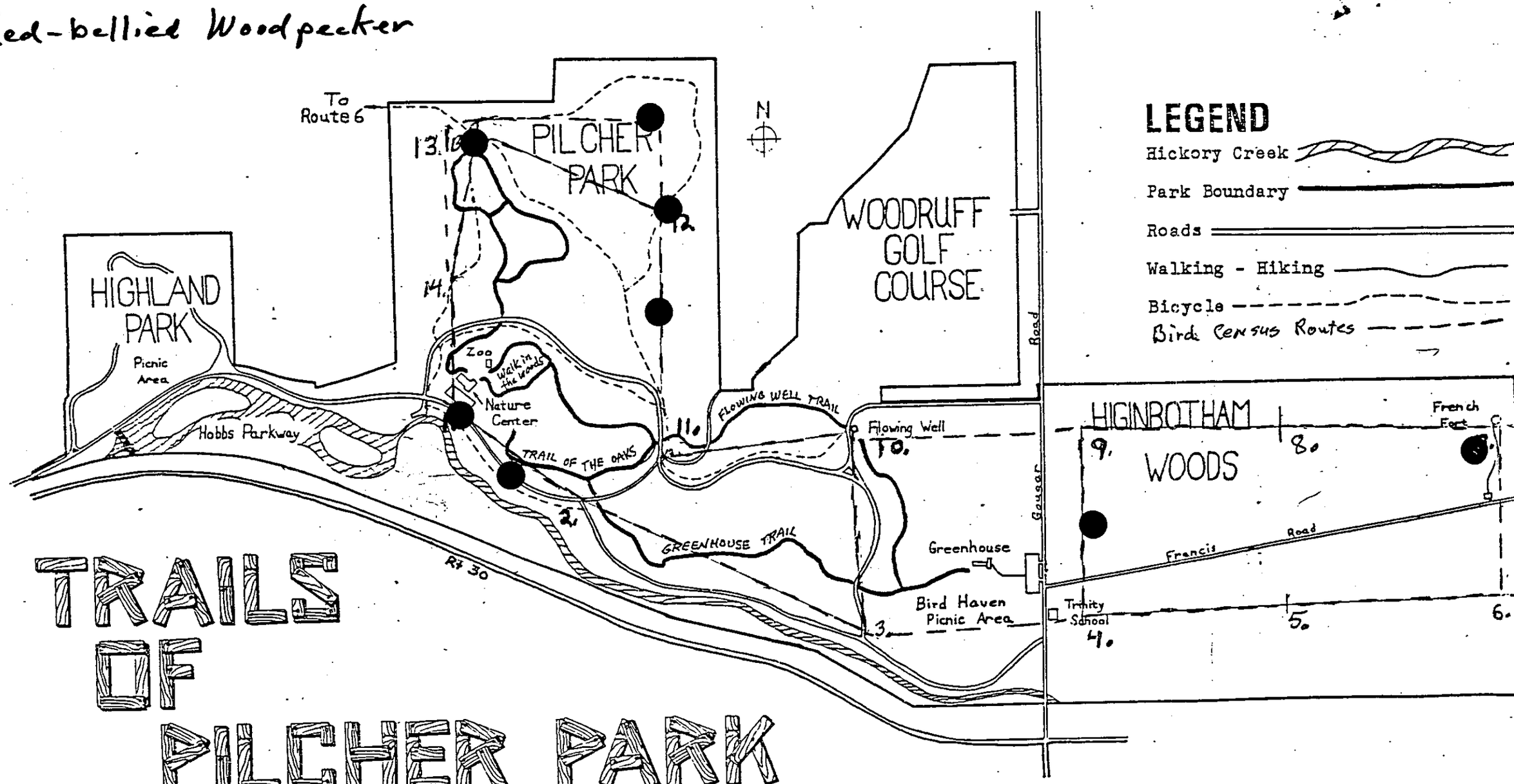


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

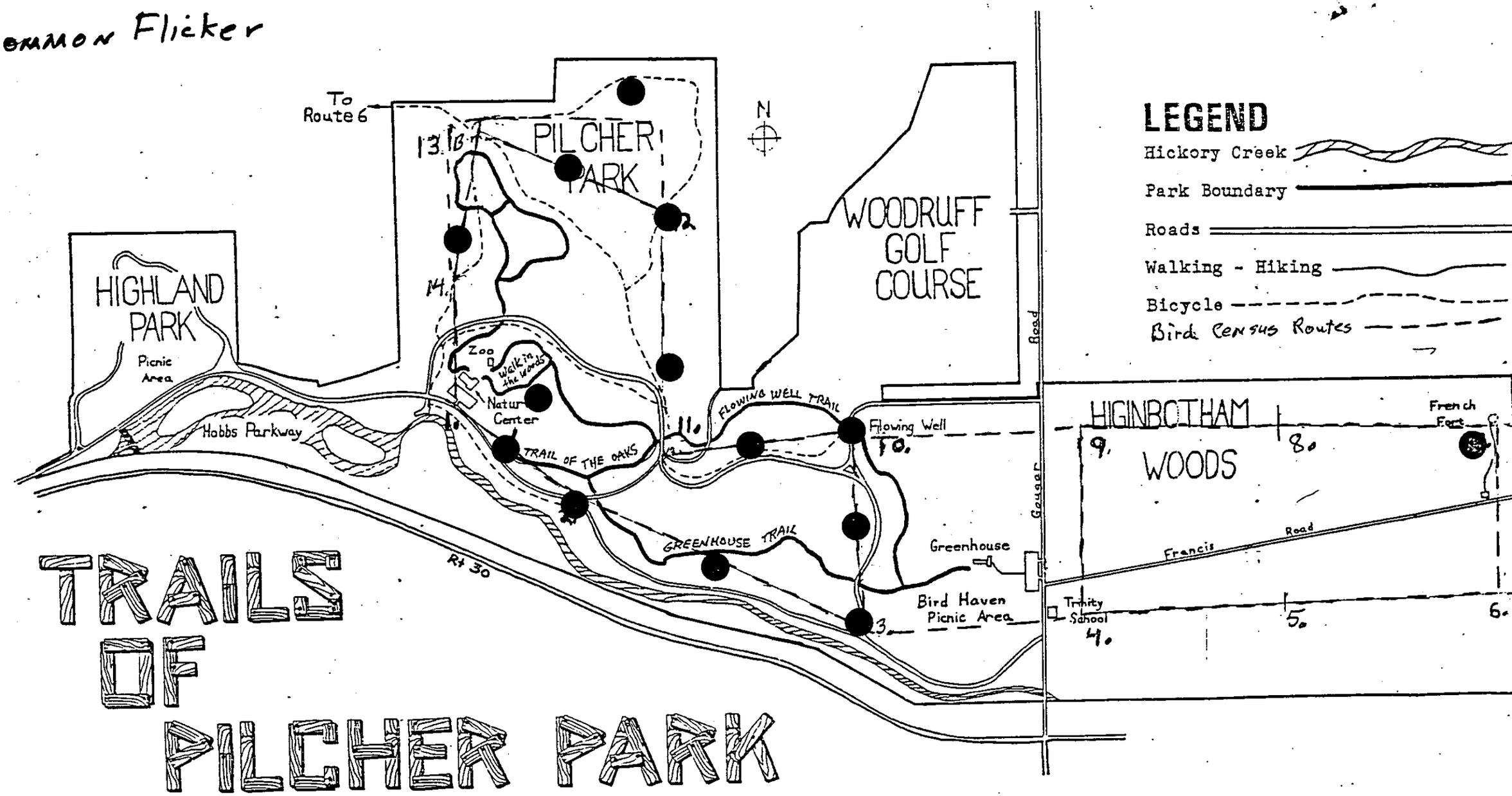
Red headed Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker

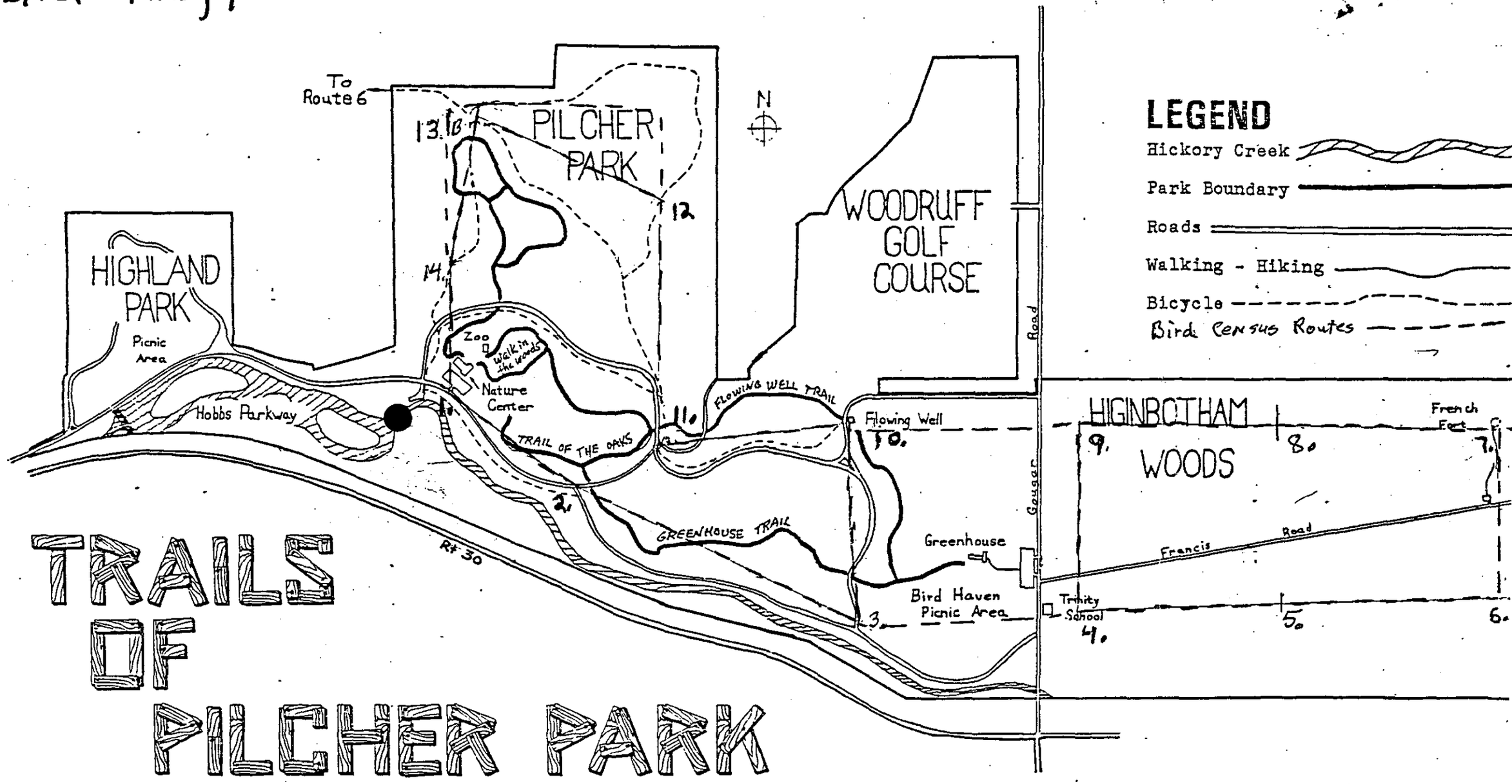


Common Flicker

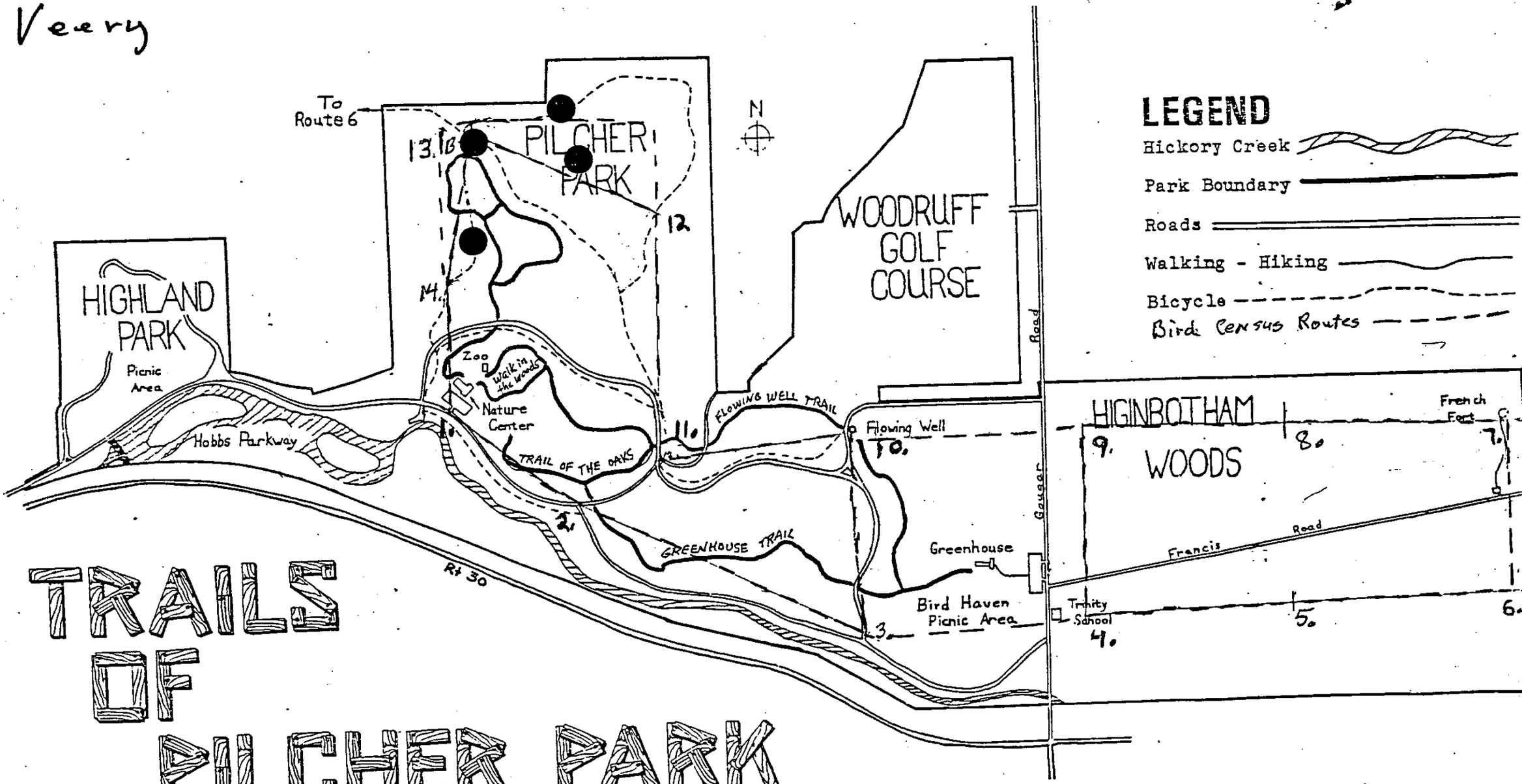


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Belted Kingfisher

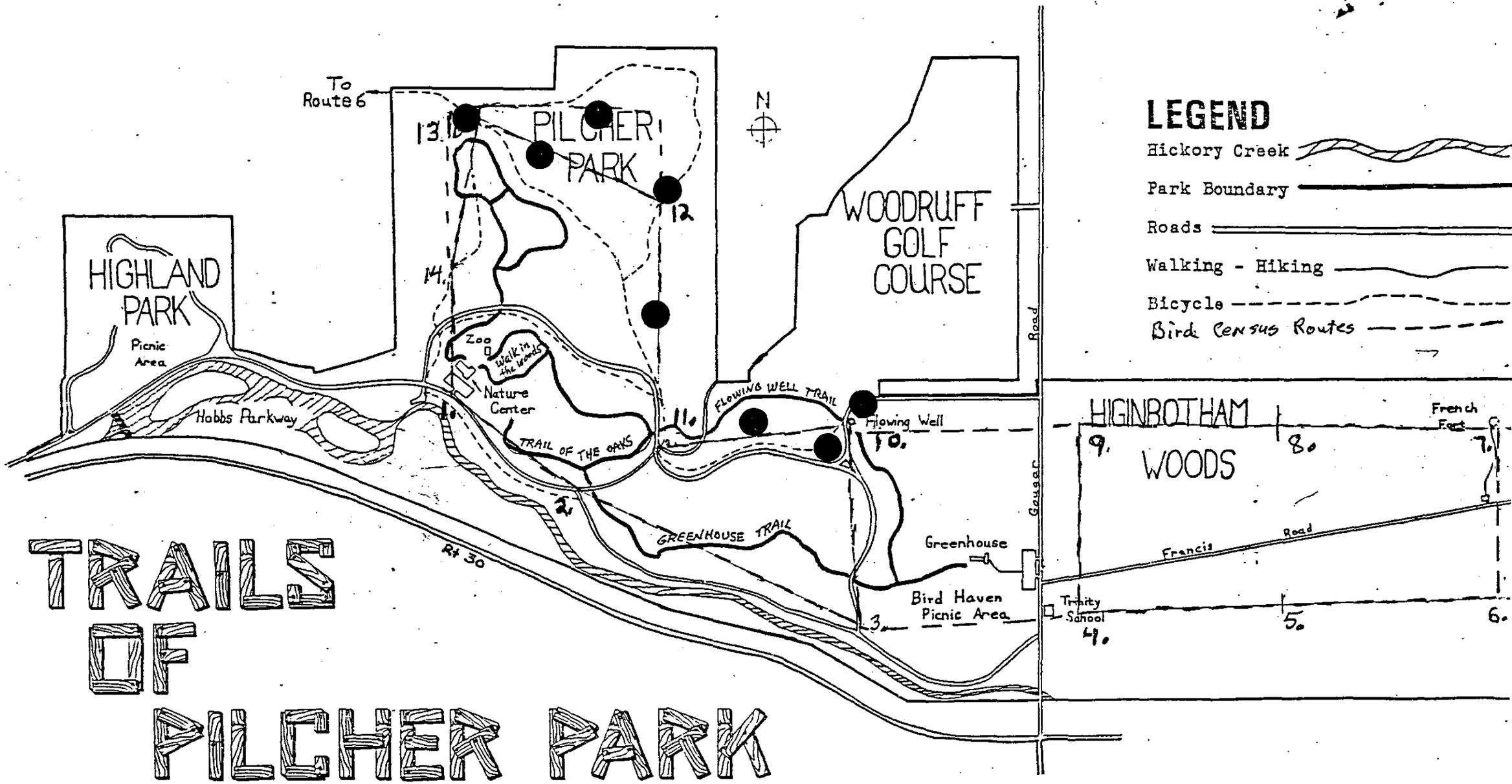


Veery



TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Wood Thrush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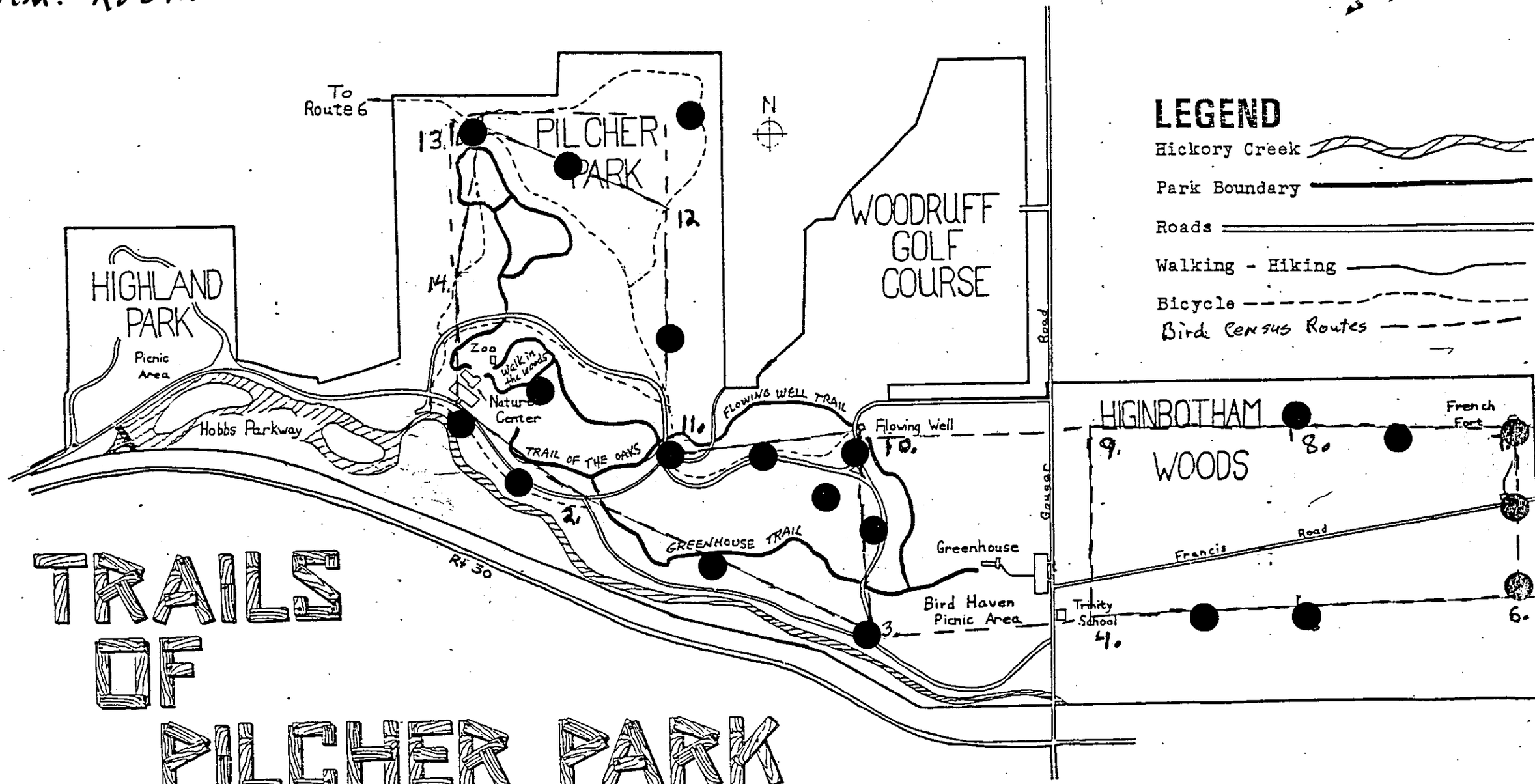
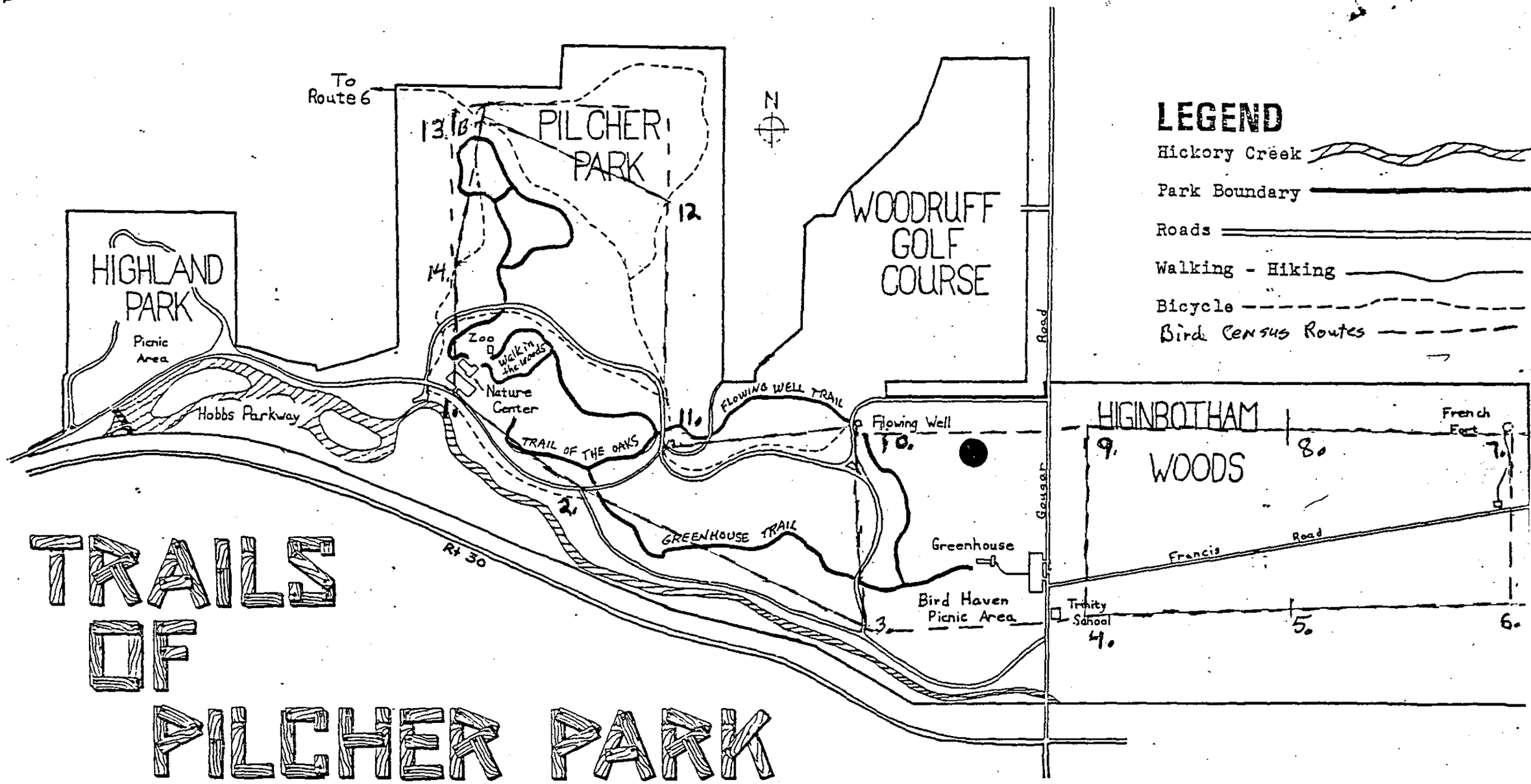
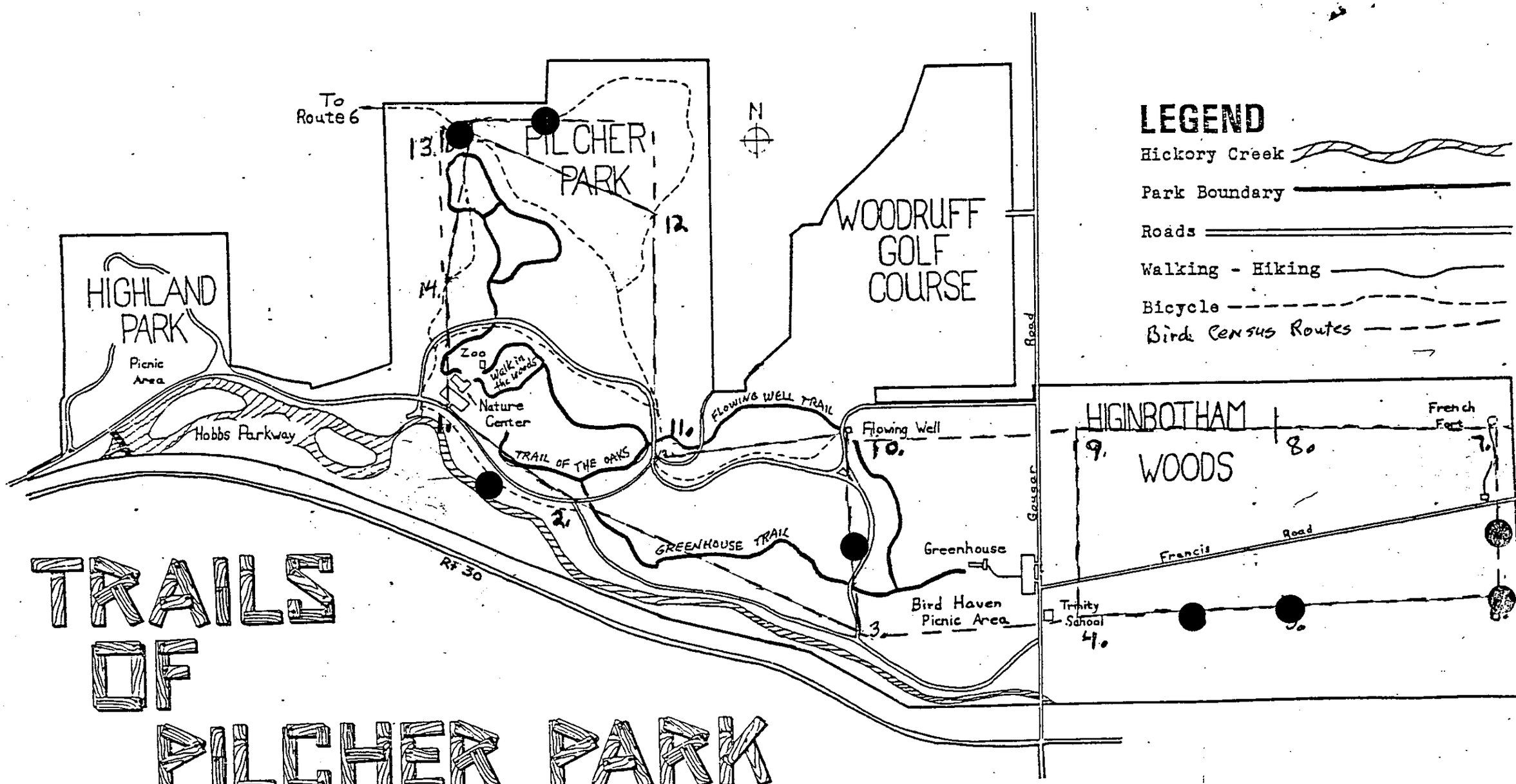
Am. Robin



TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Brown Thrasher

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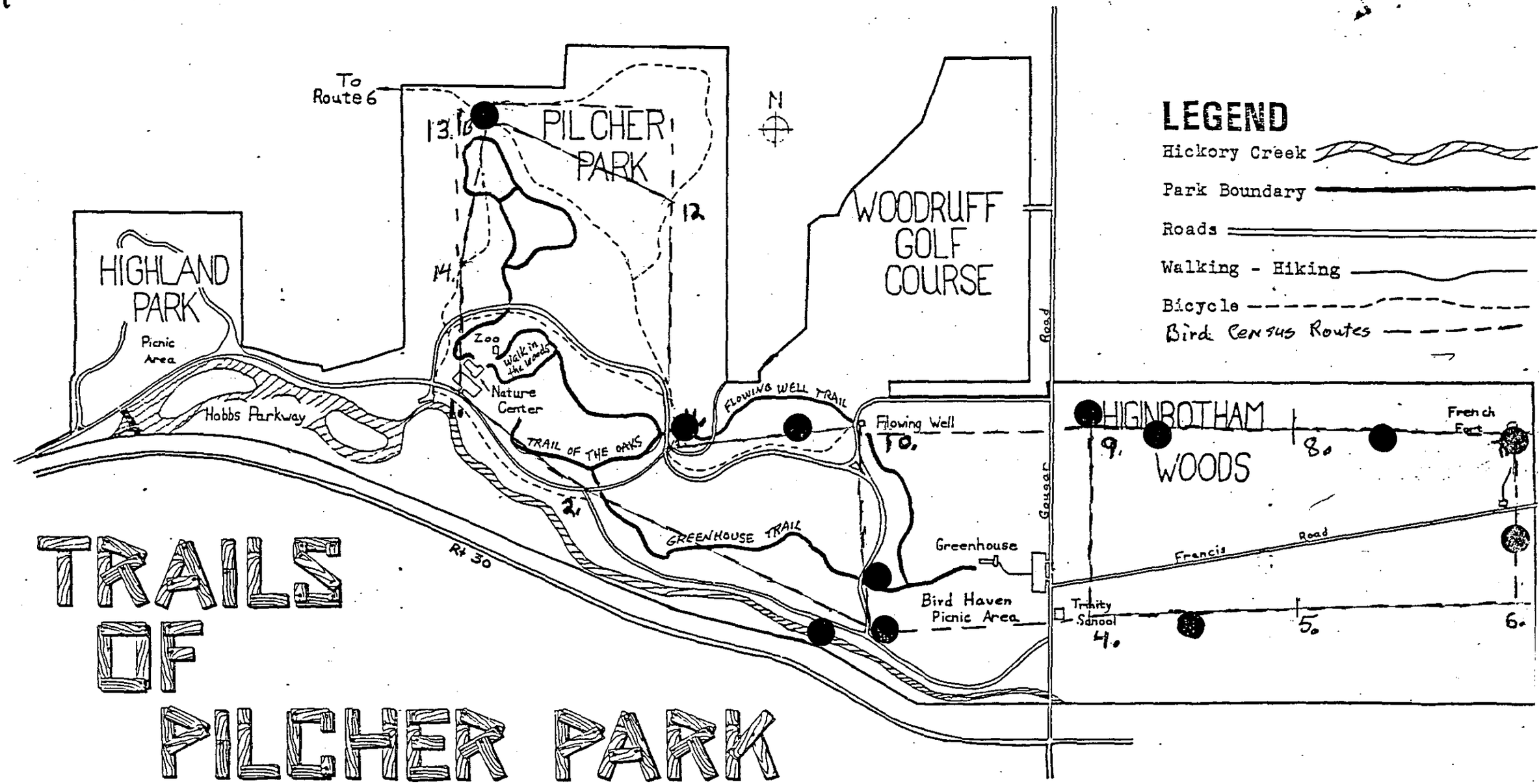
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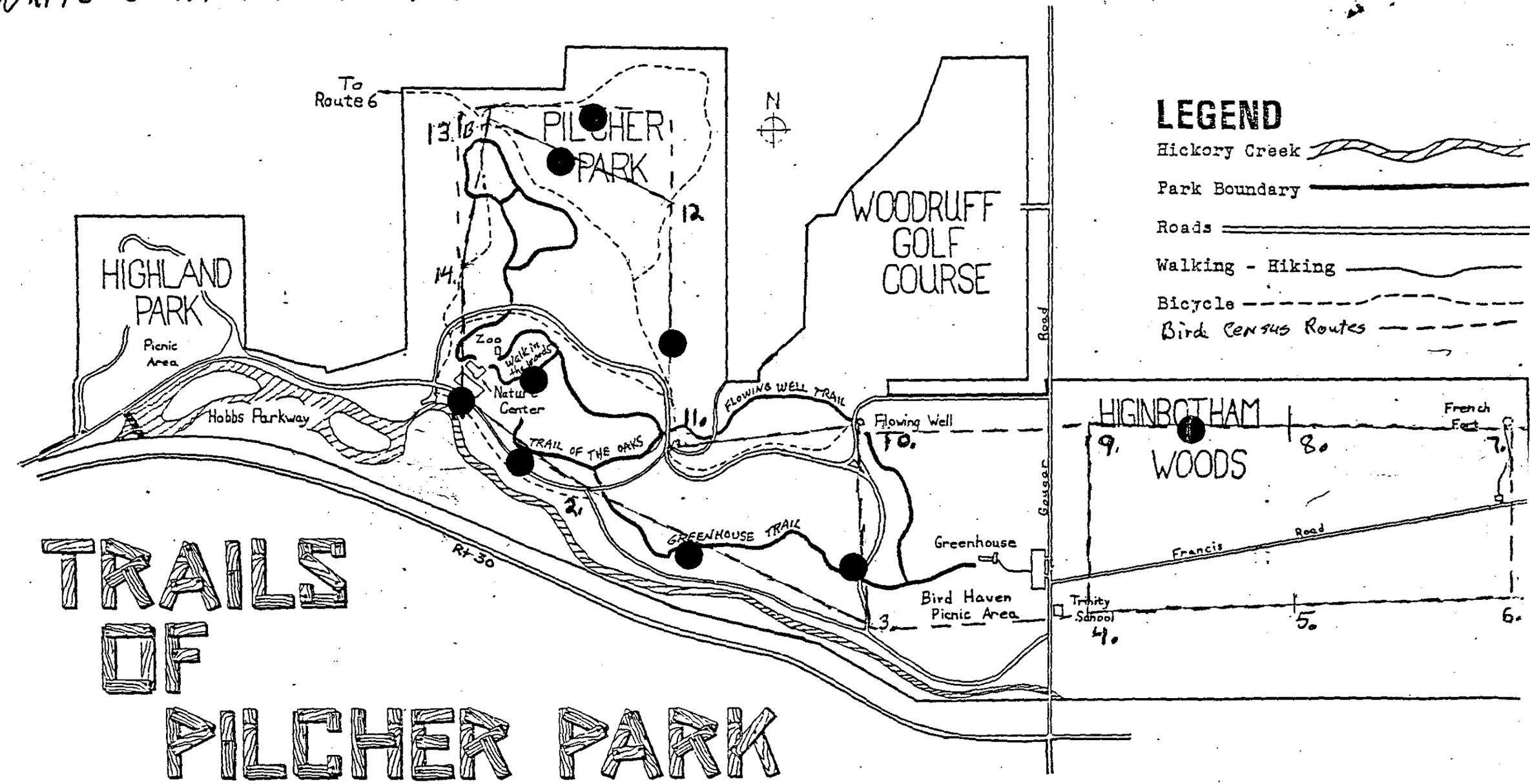

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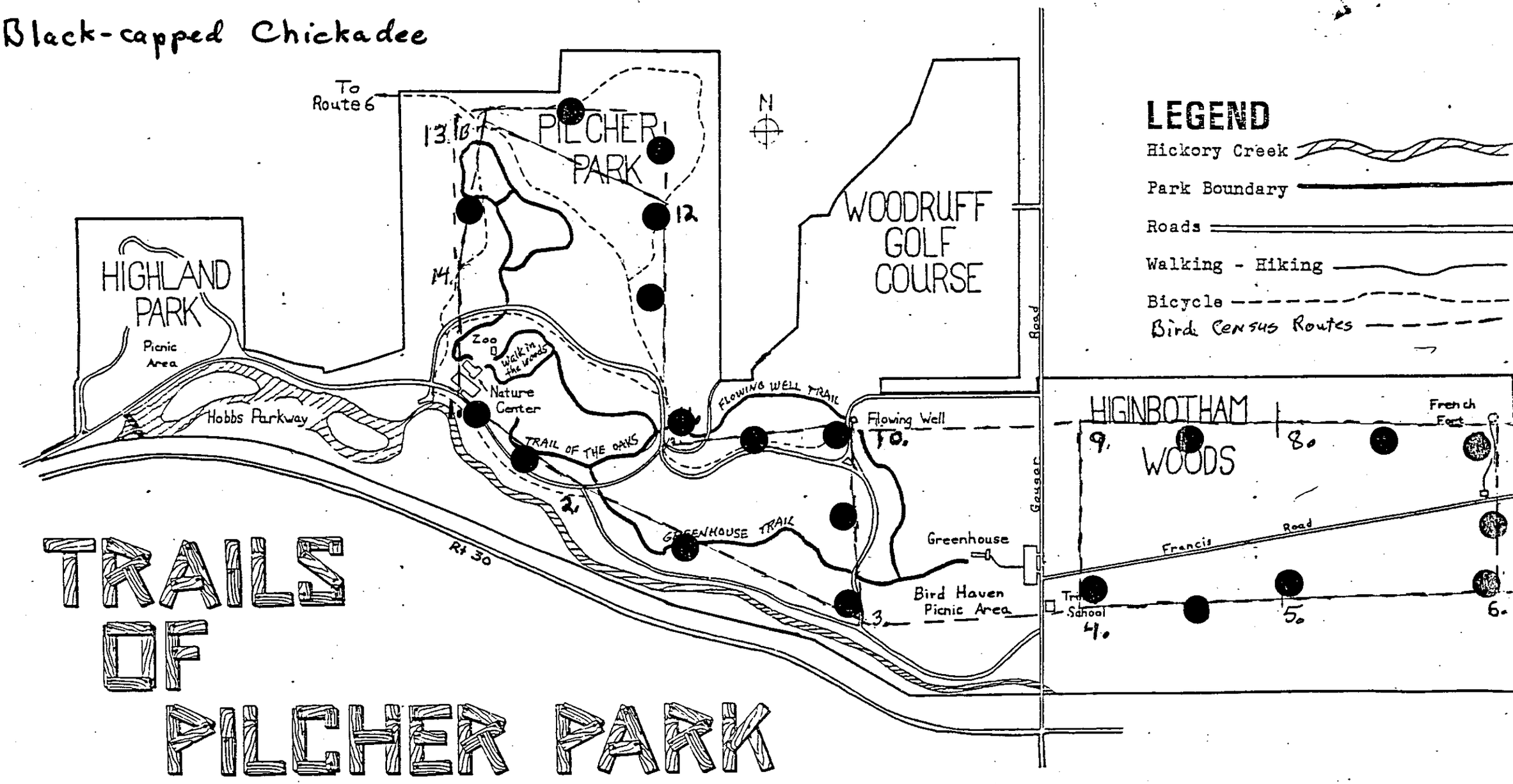
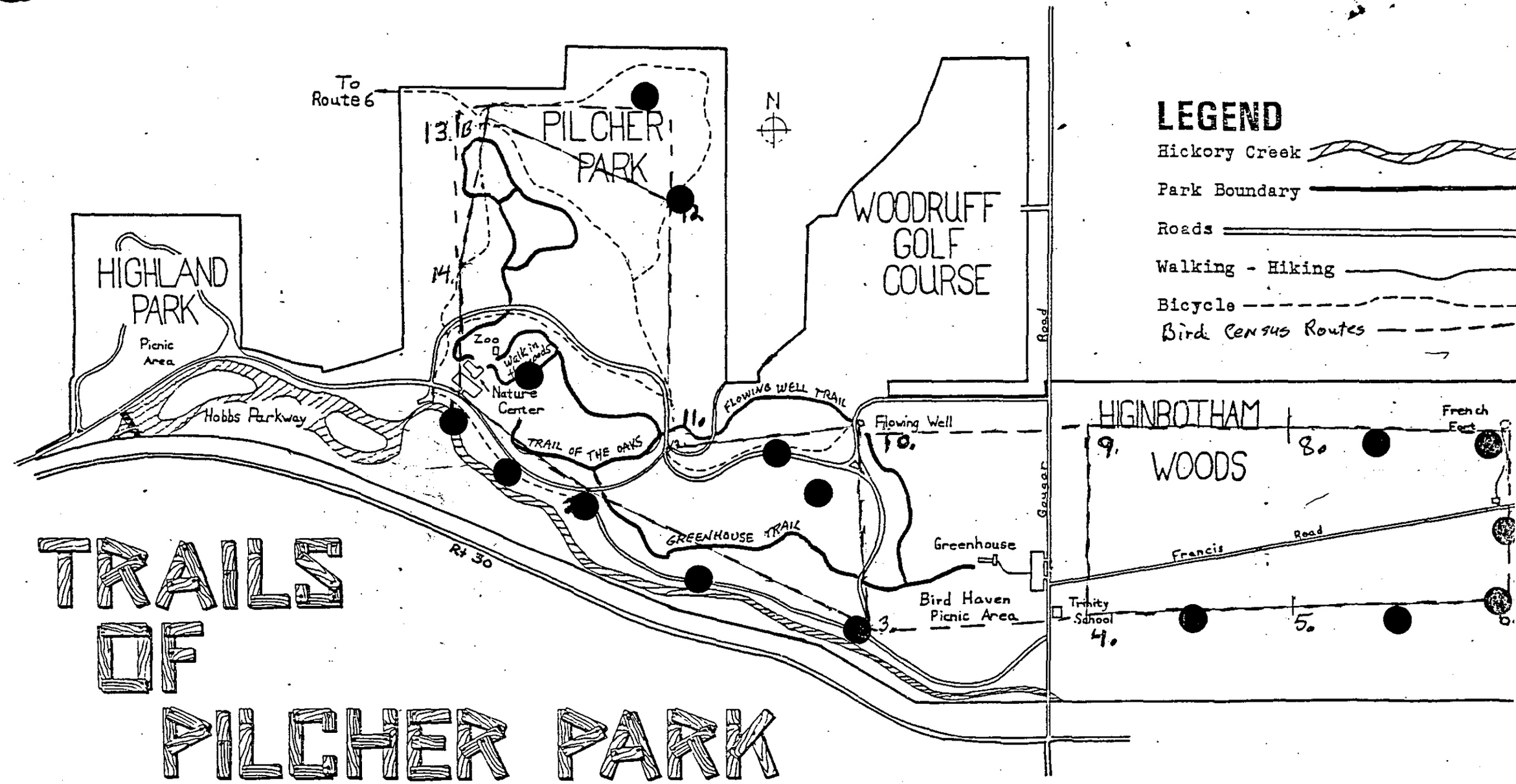
Black-capped Chickadee



Common Crow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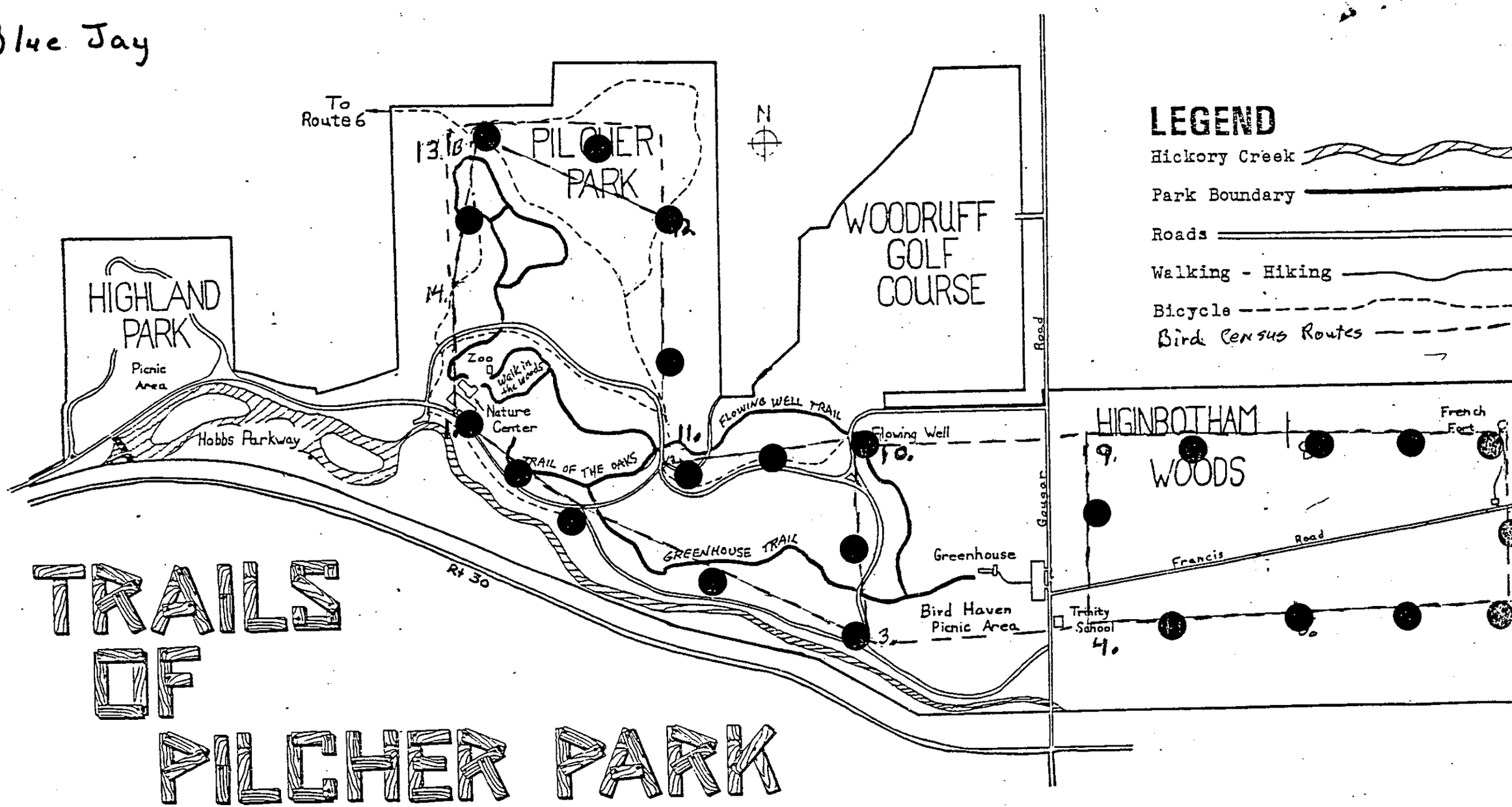
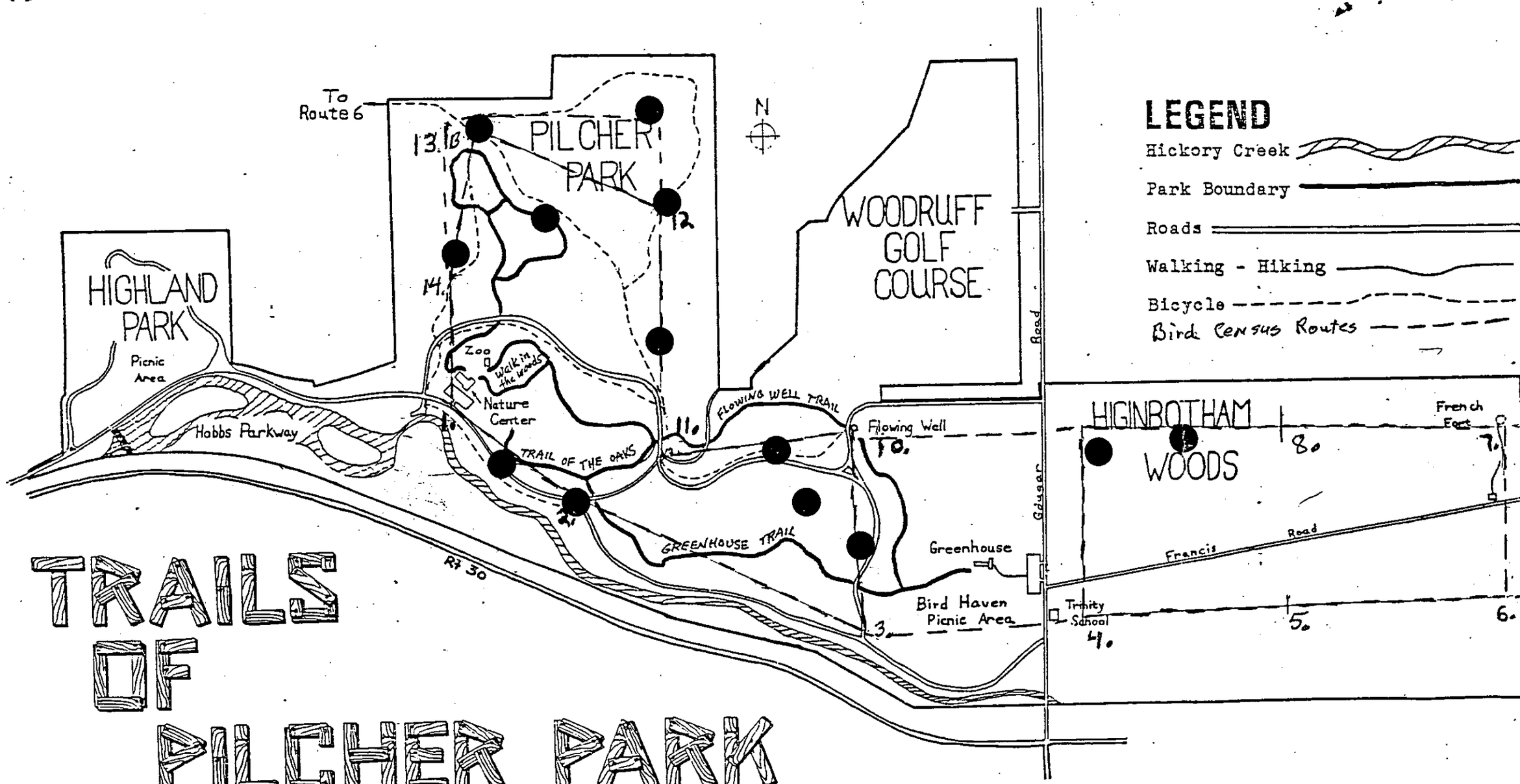
Blue Jay



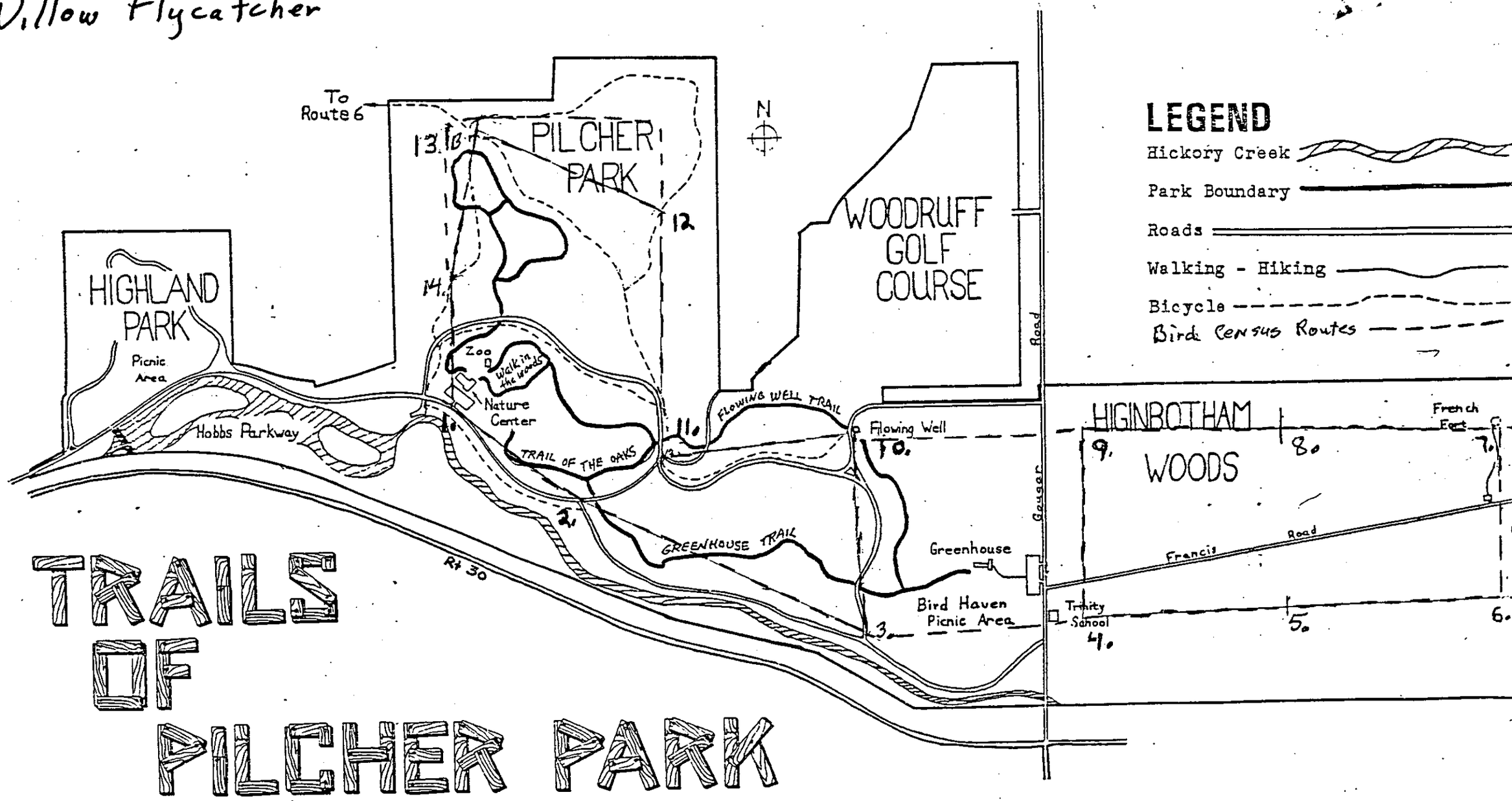
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Eastern Peewee

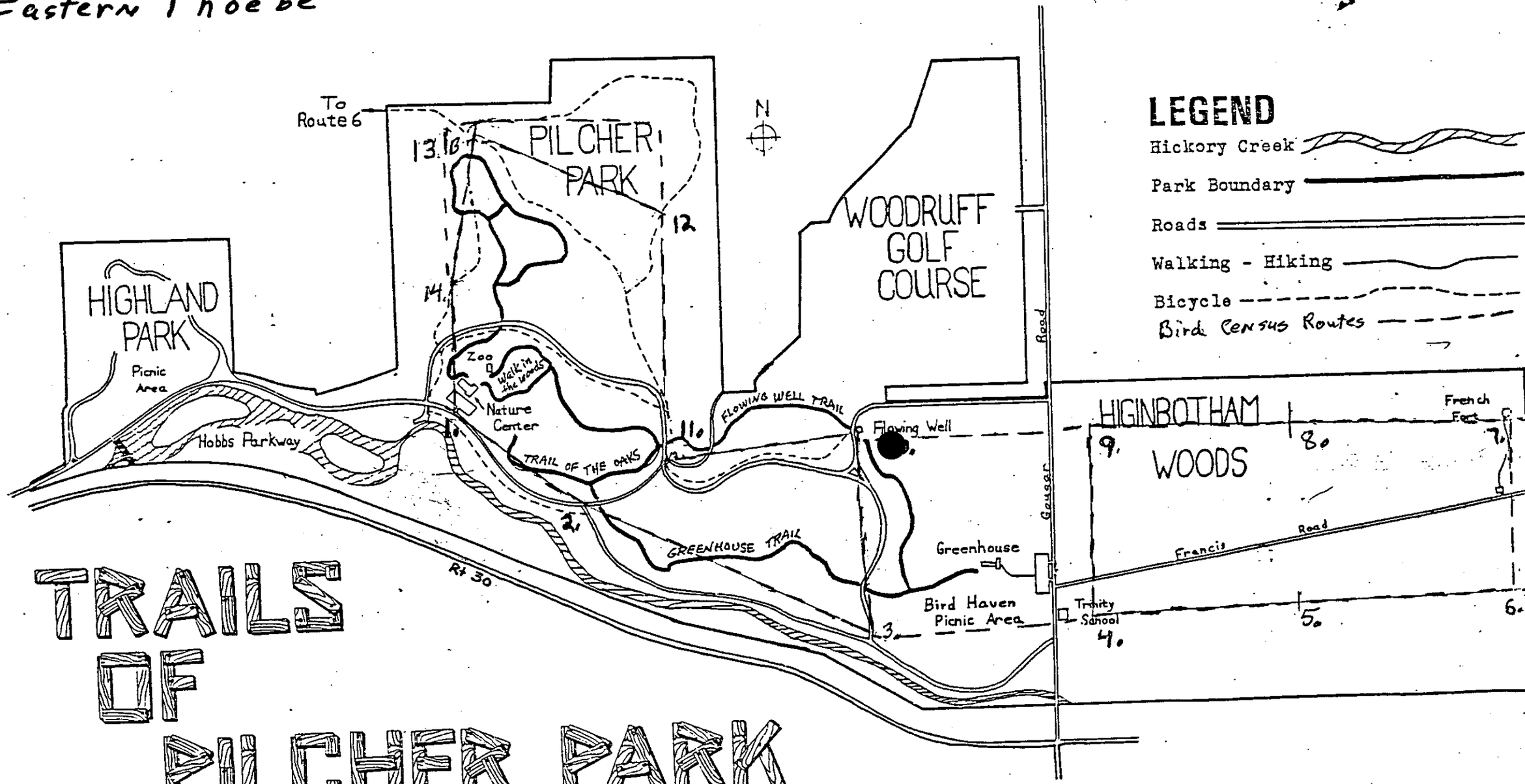


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Willow Flycatcher

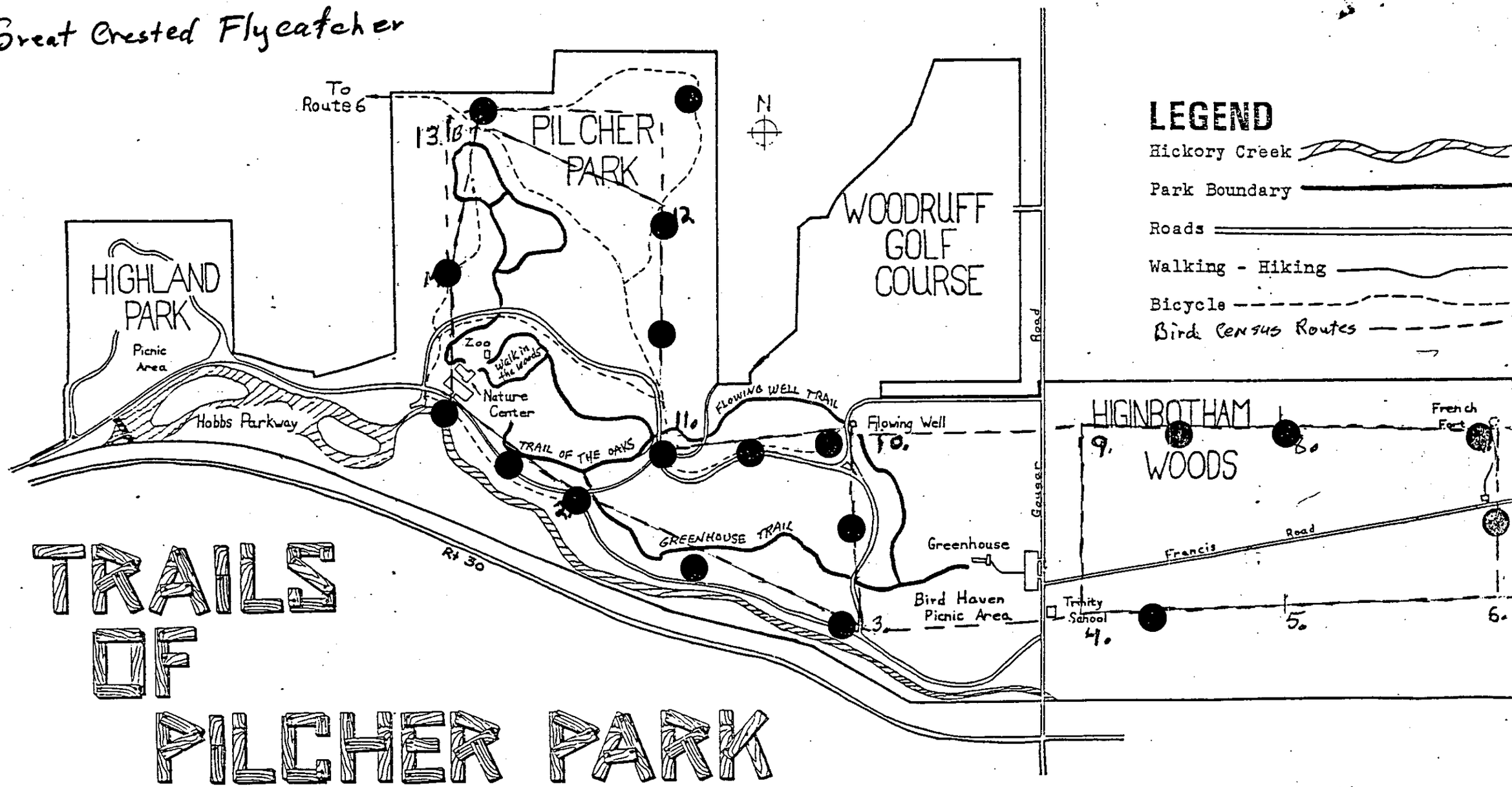


Eastern Phoebe



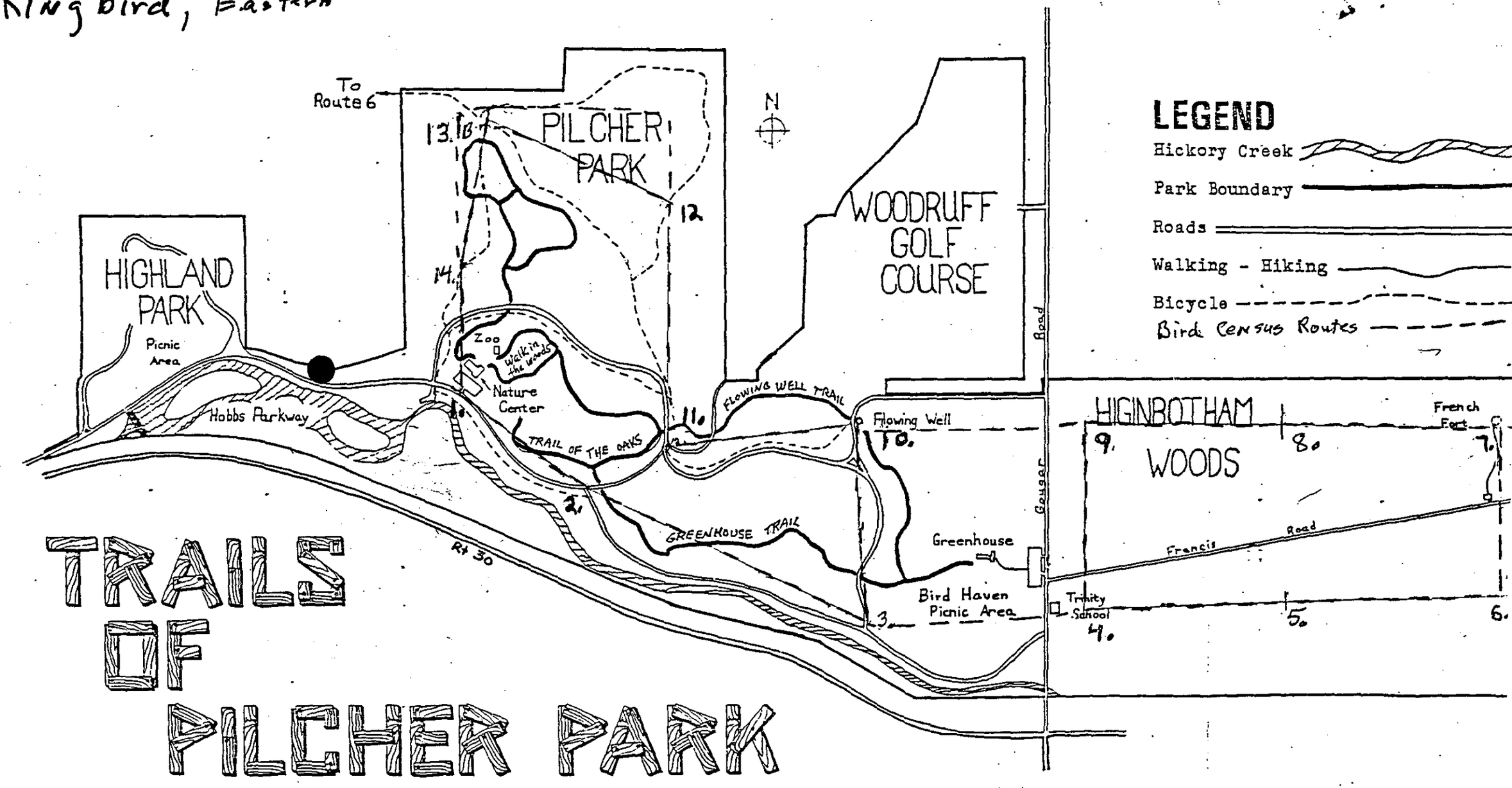
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Great Crested Flycatcher

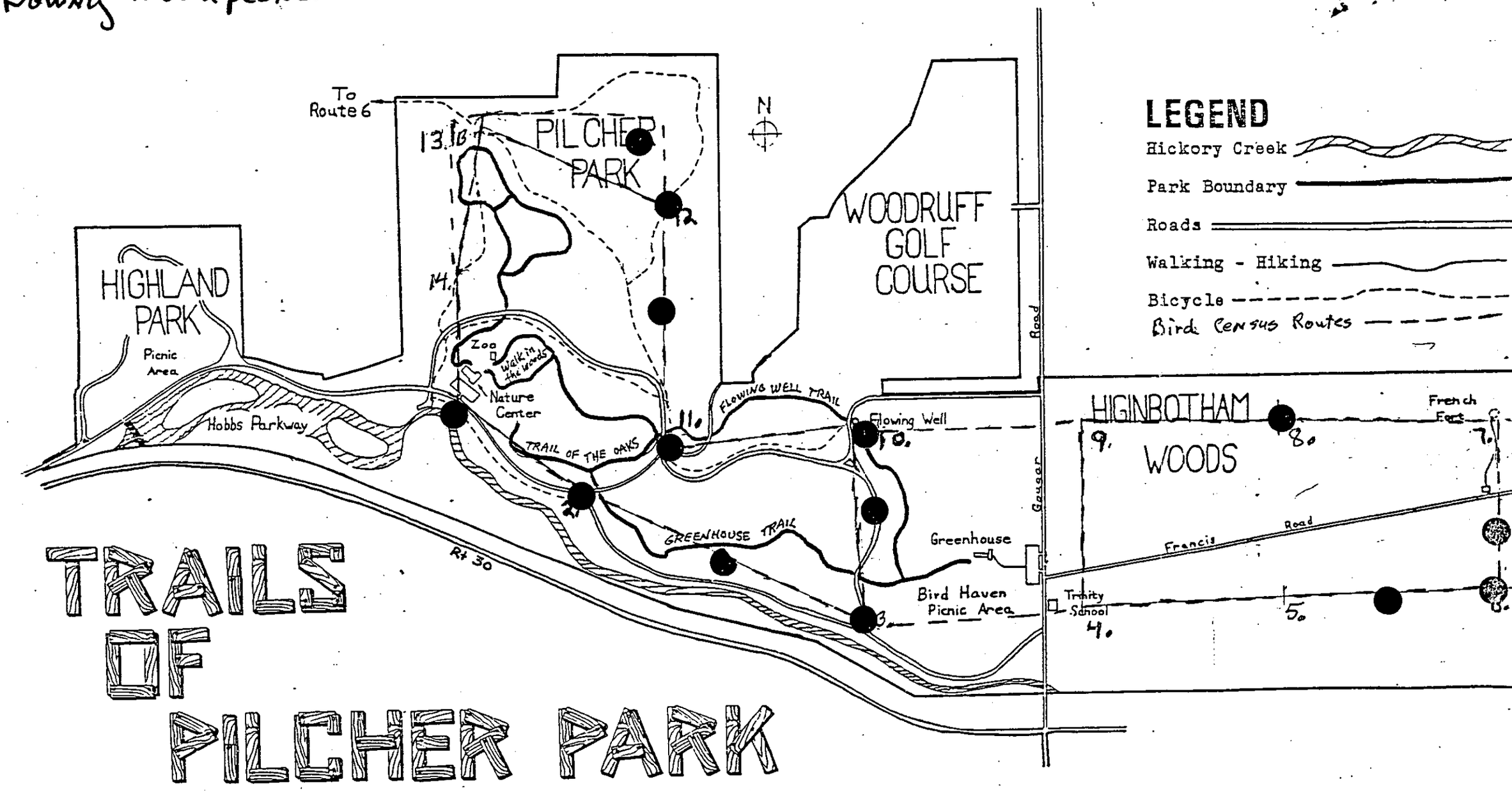


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

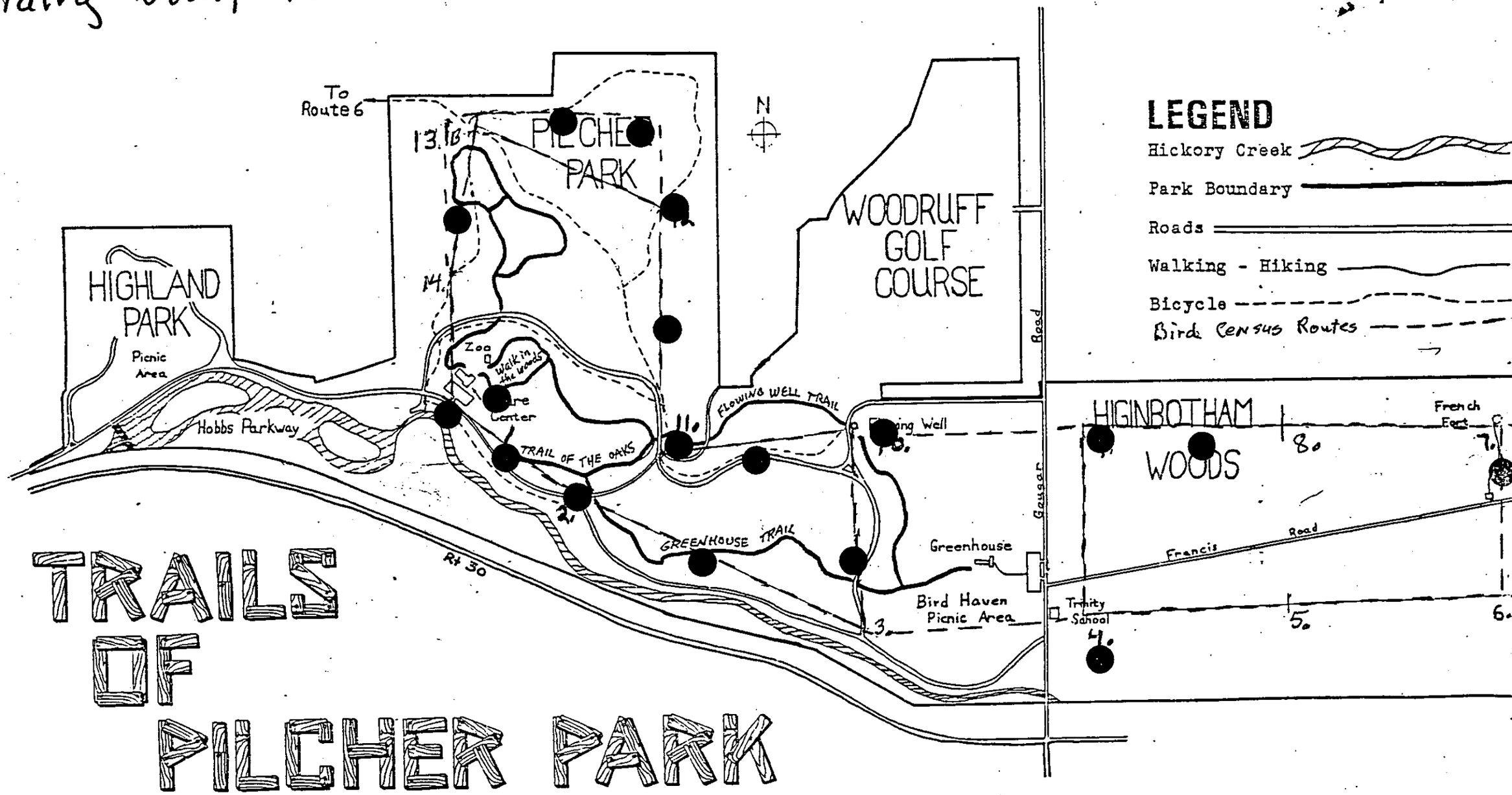
Kingbird, Eastern



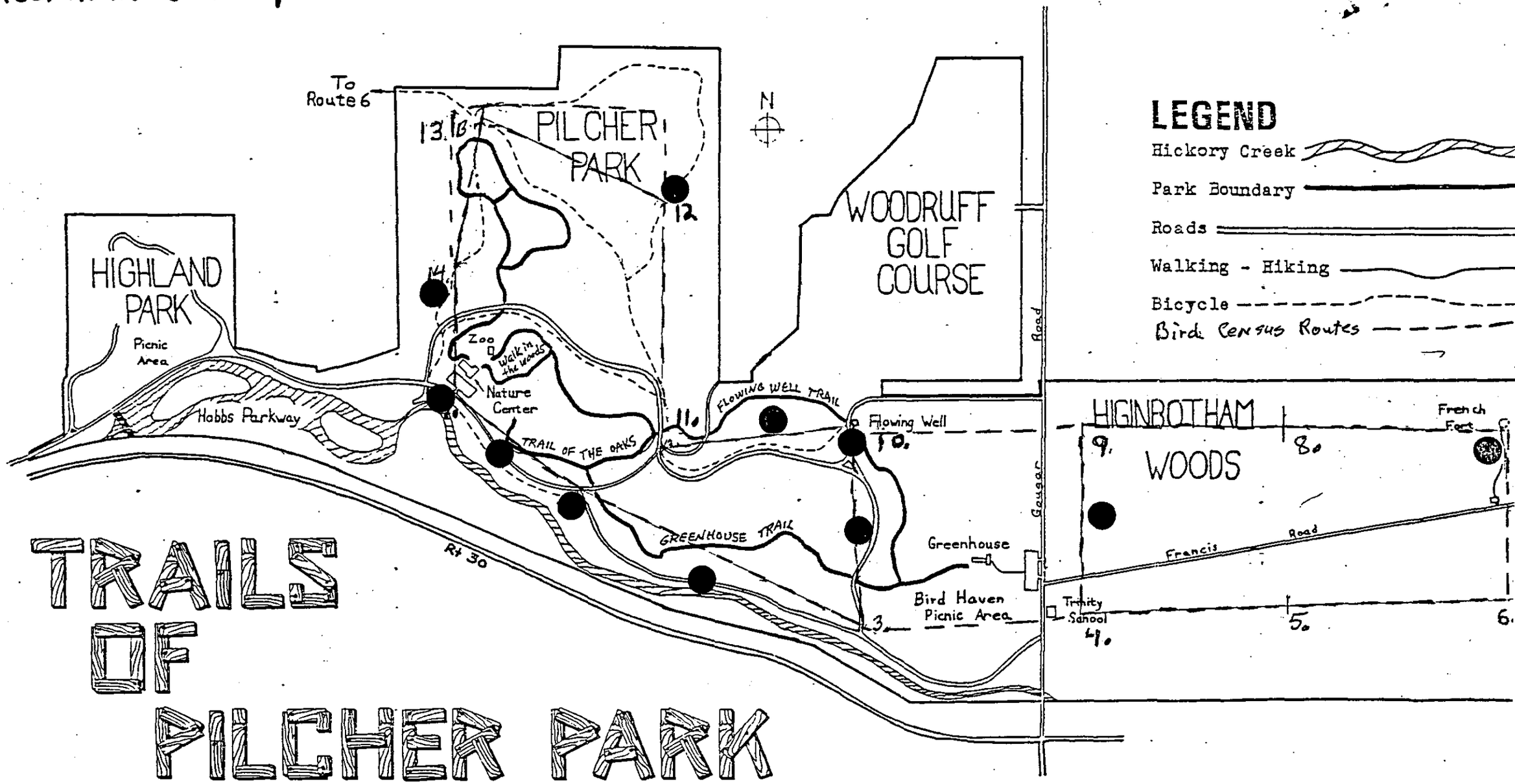
Downy Woodpecker



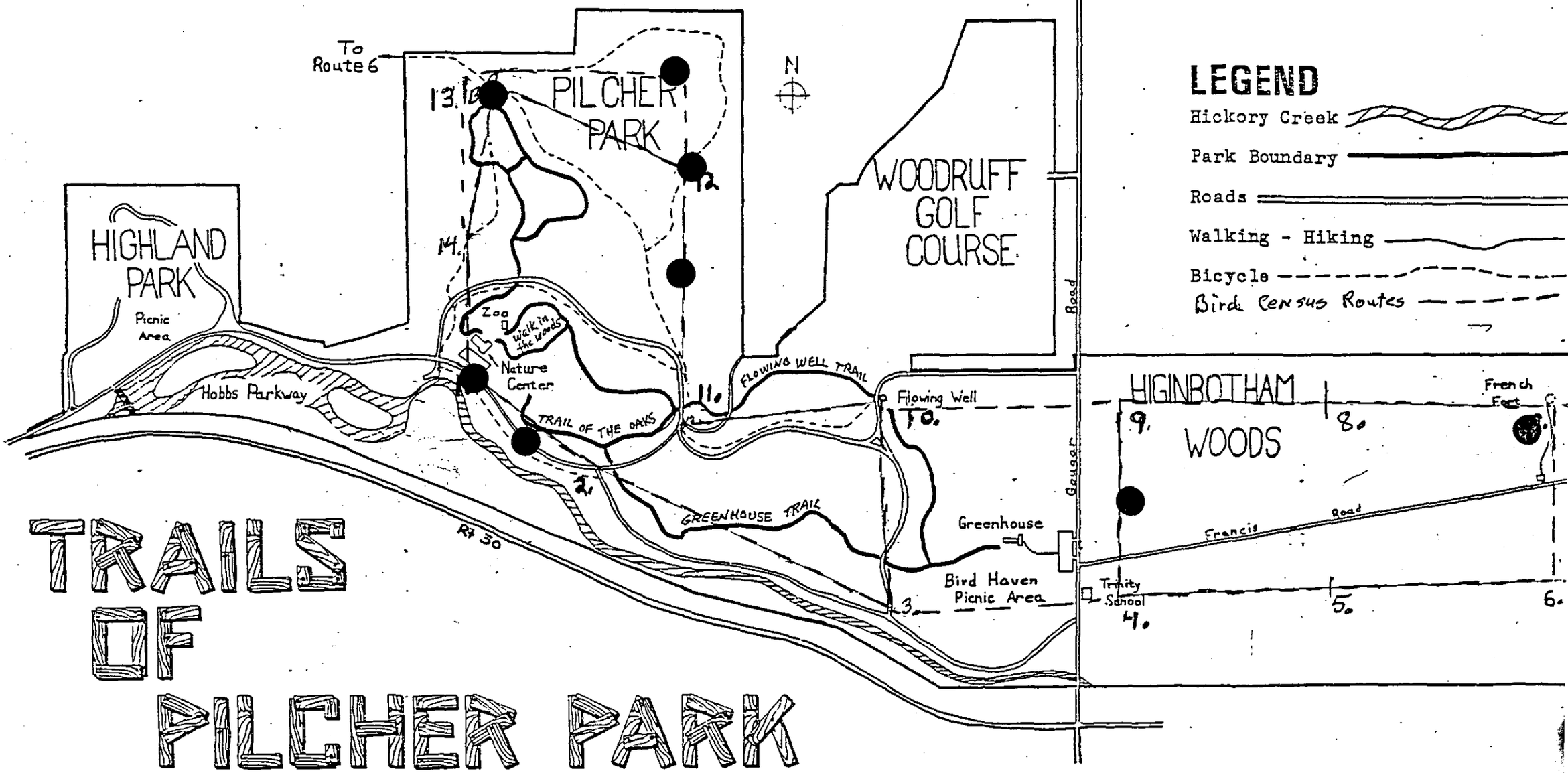
Hairy Woodpecker



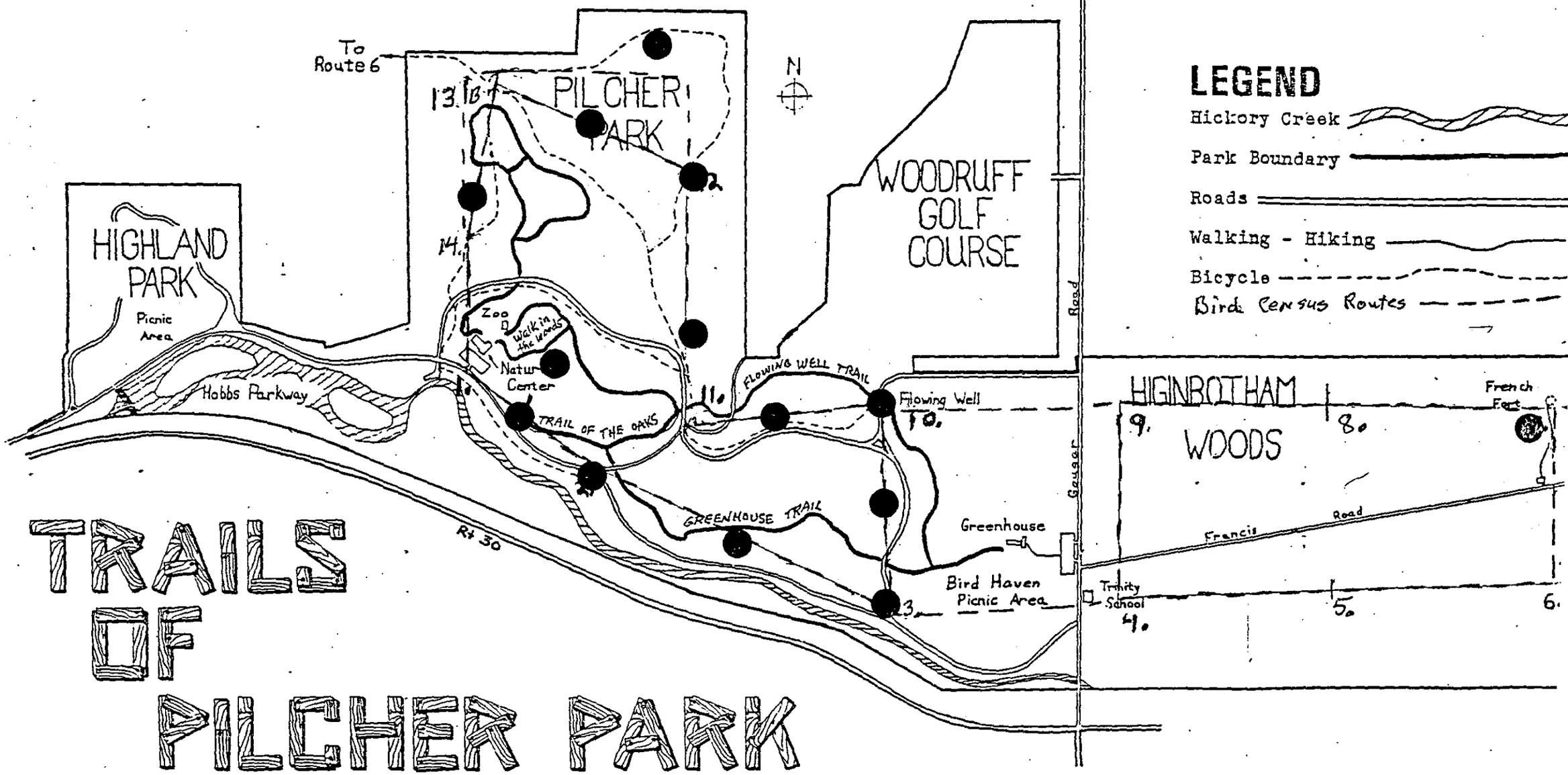
Red headed Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker

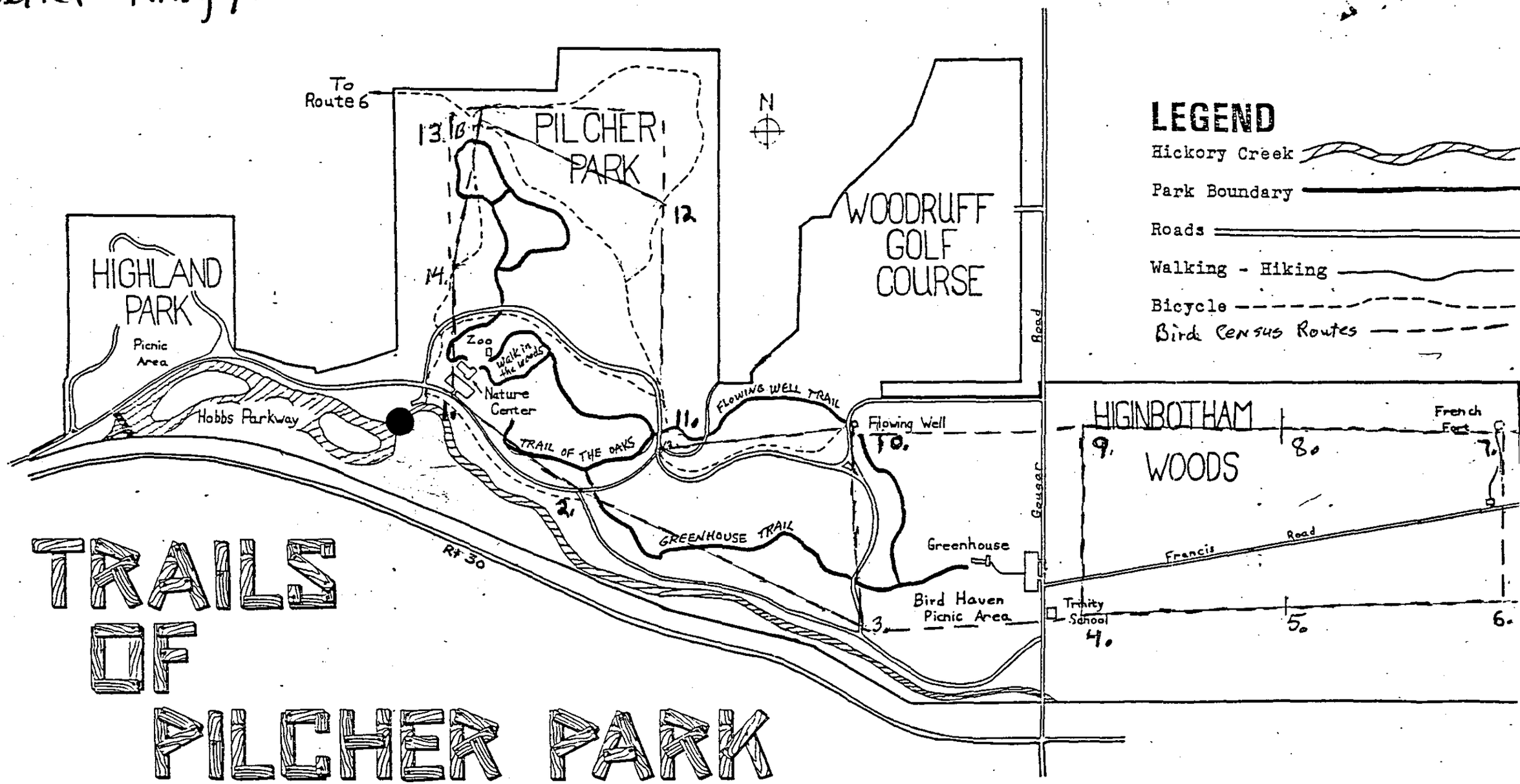


Common Flicker



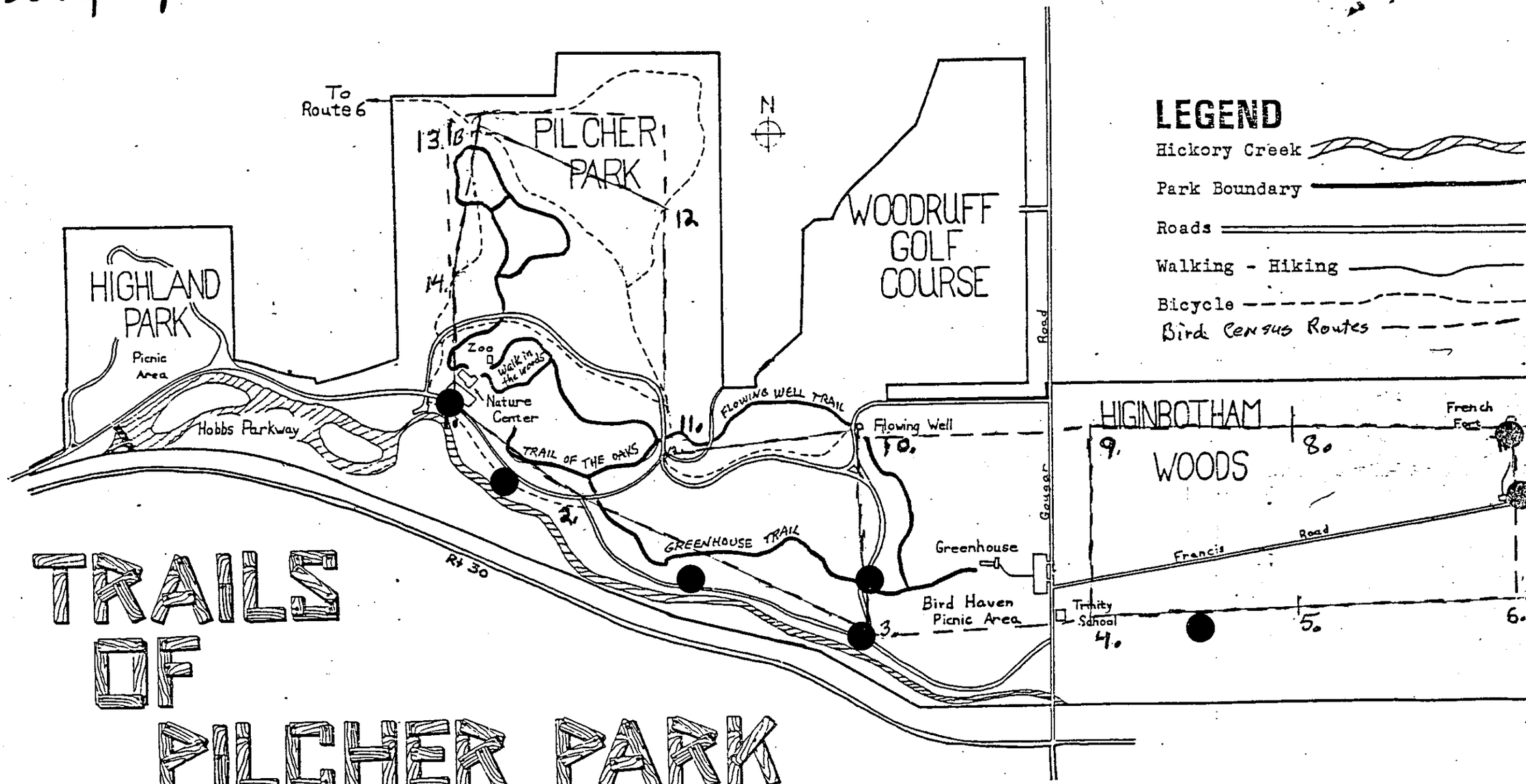
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Belted Kingfisher



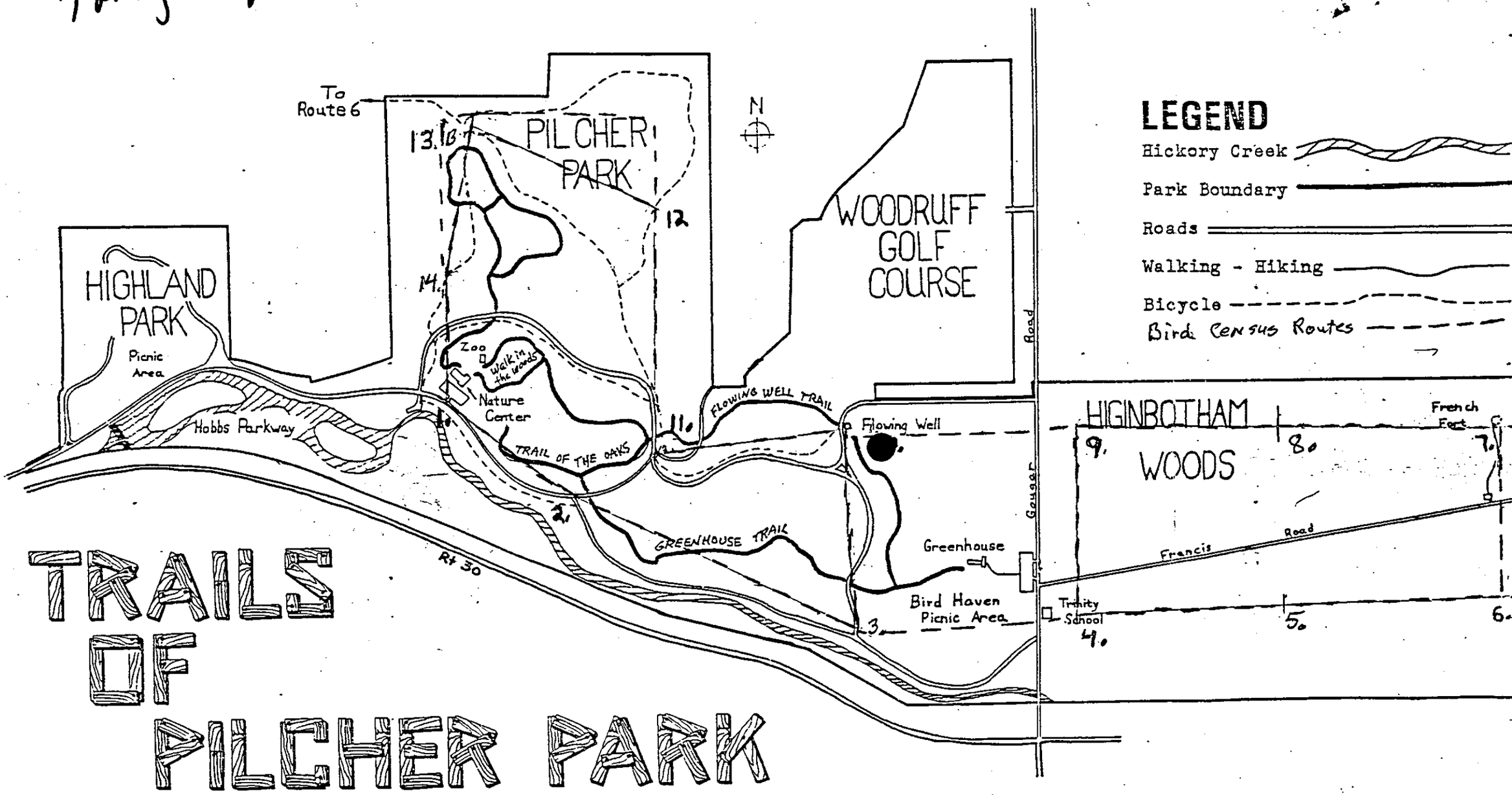
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Song Sparrow

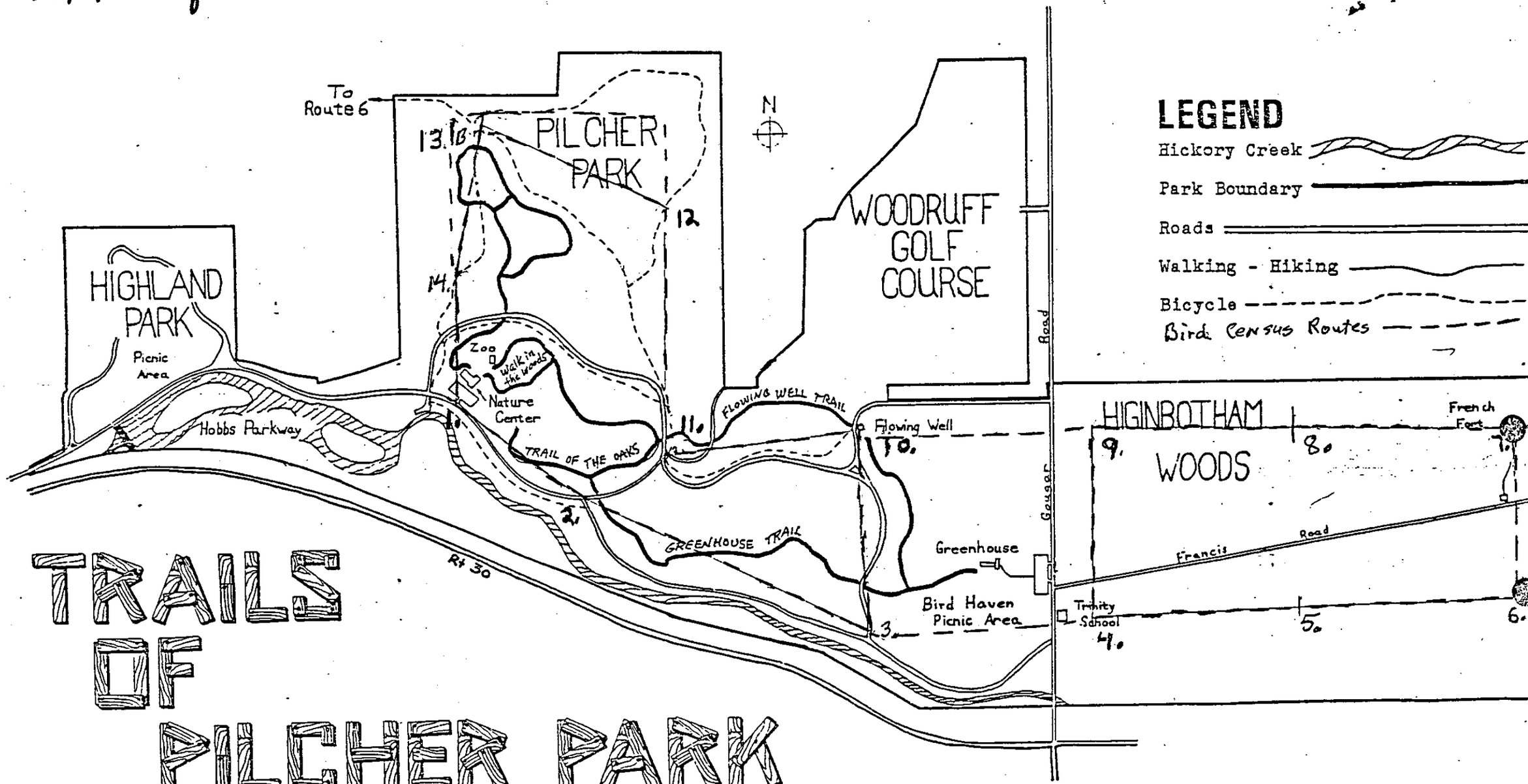


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

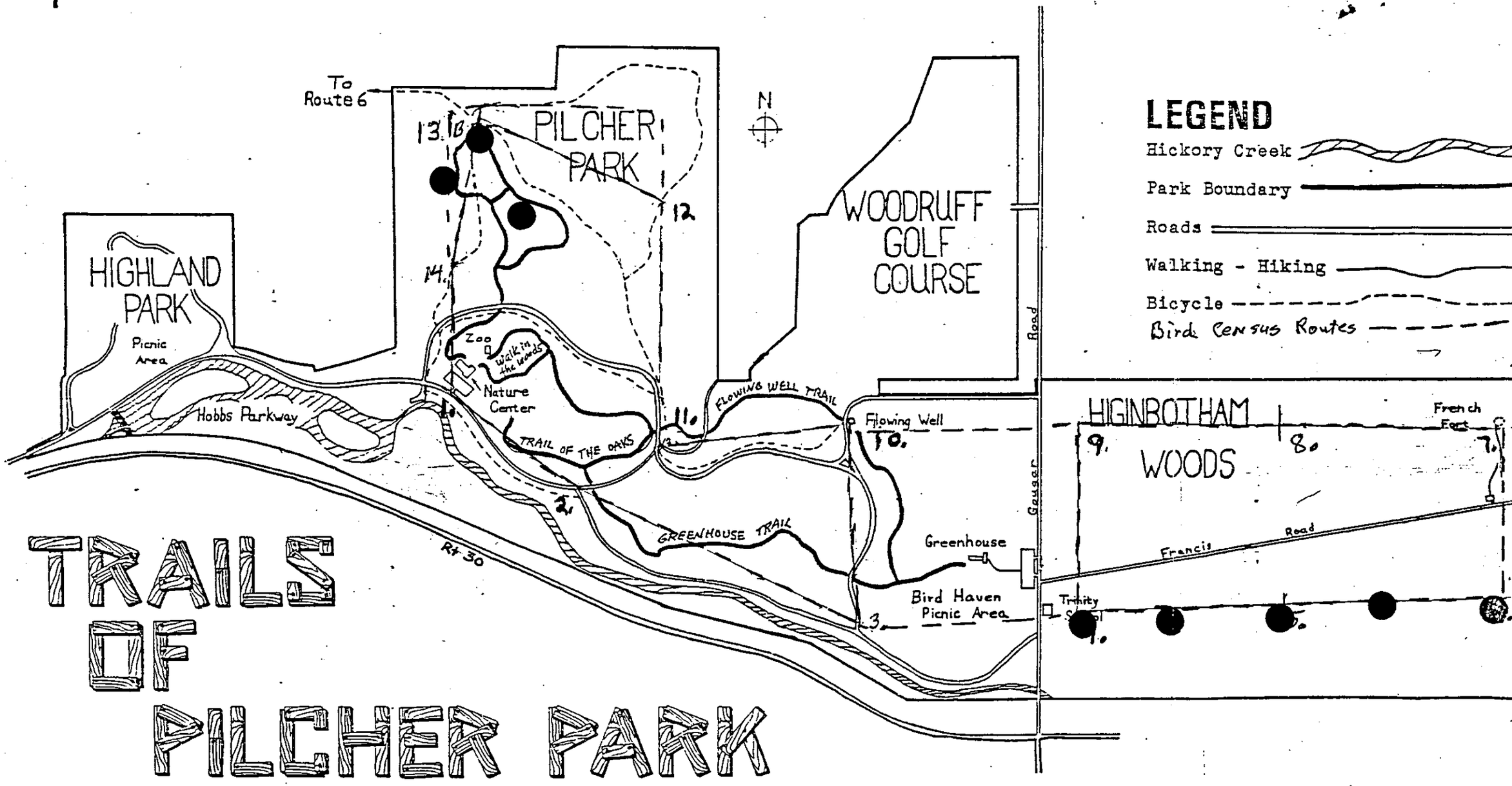
Chipping Sparrow



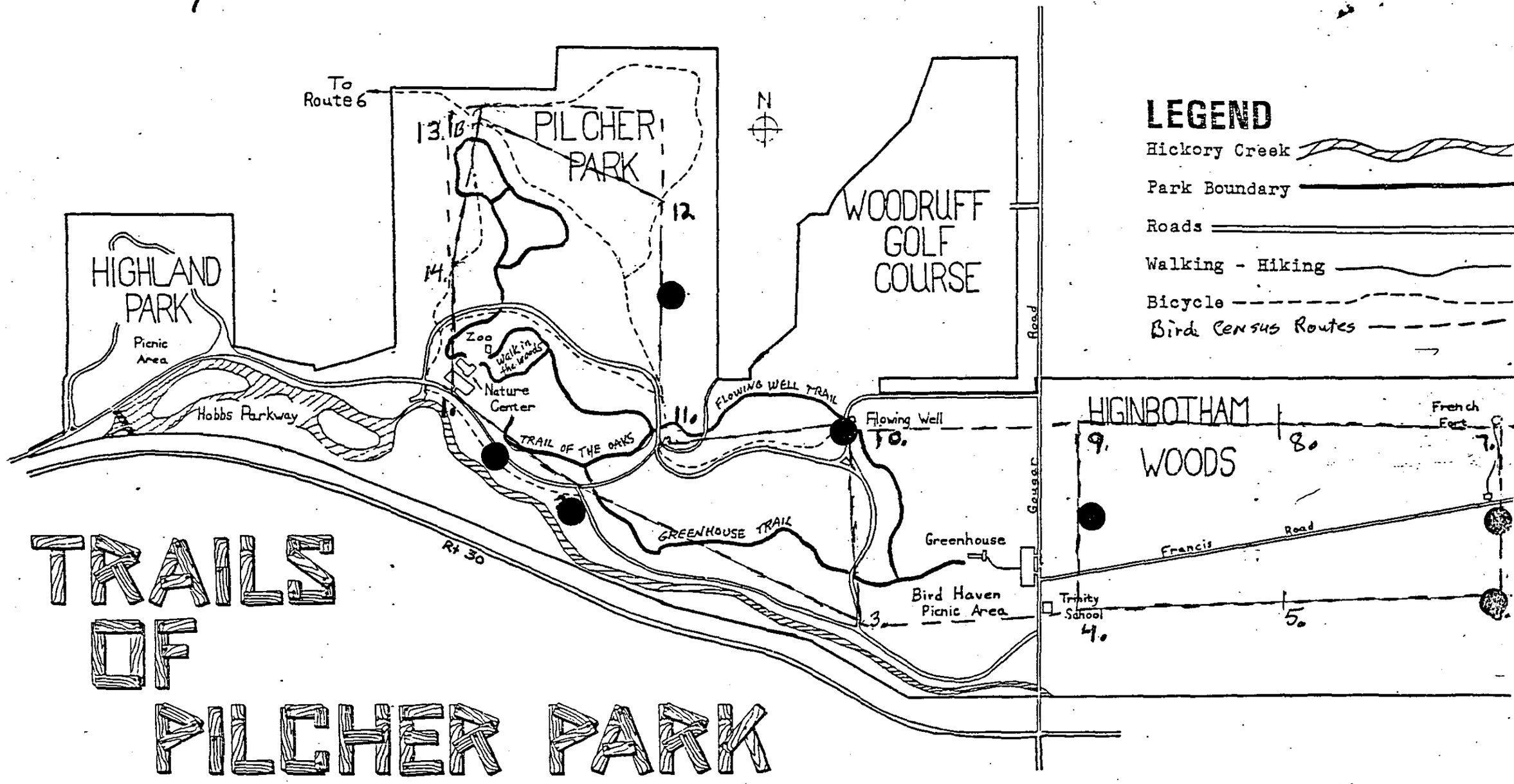
Field Sparrow



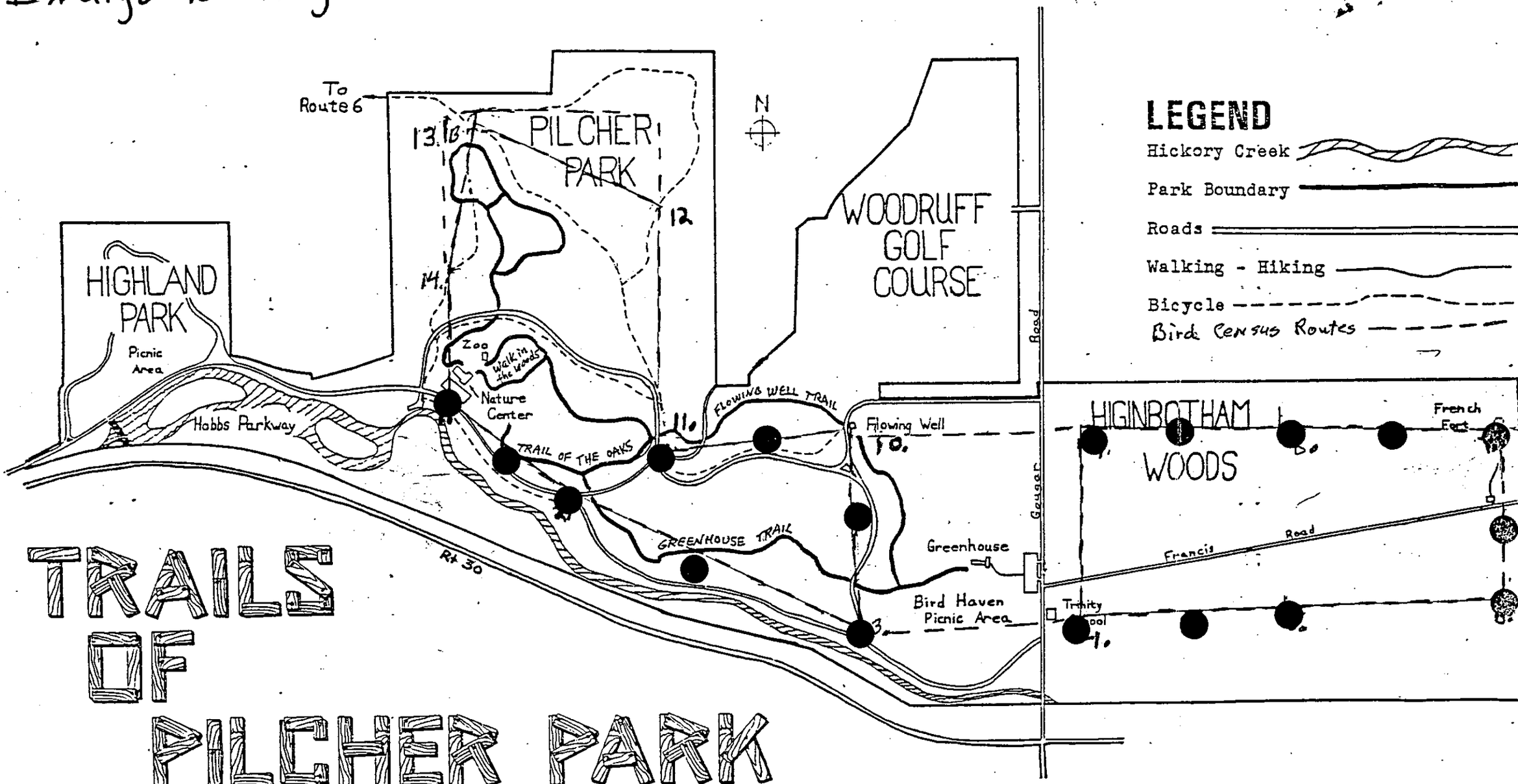
Rufous-sided Towhee



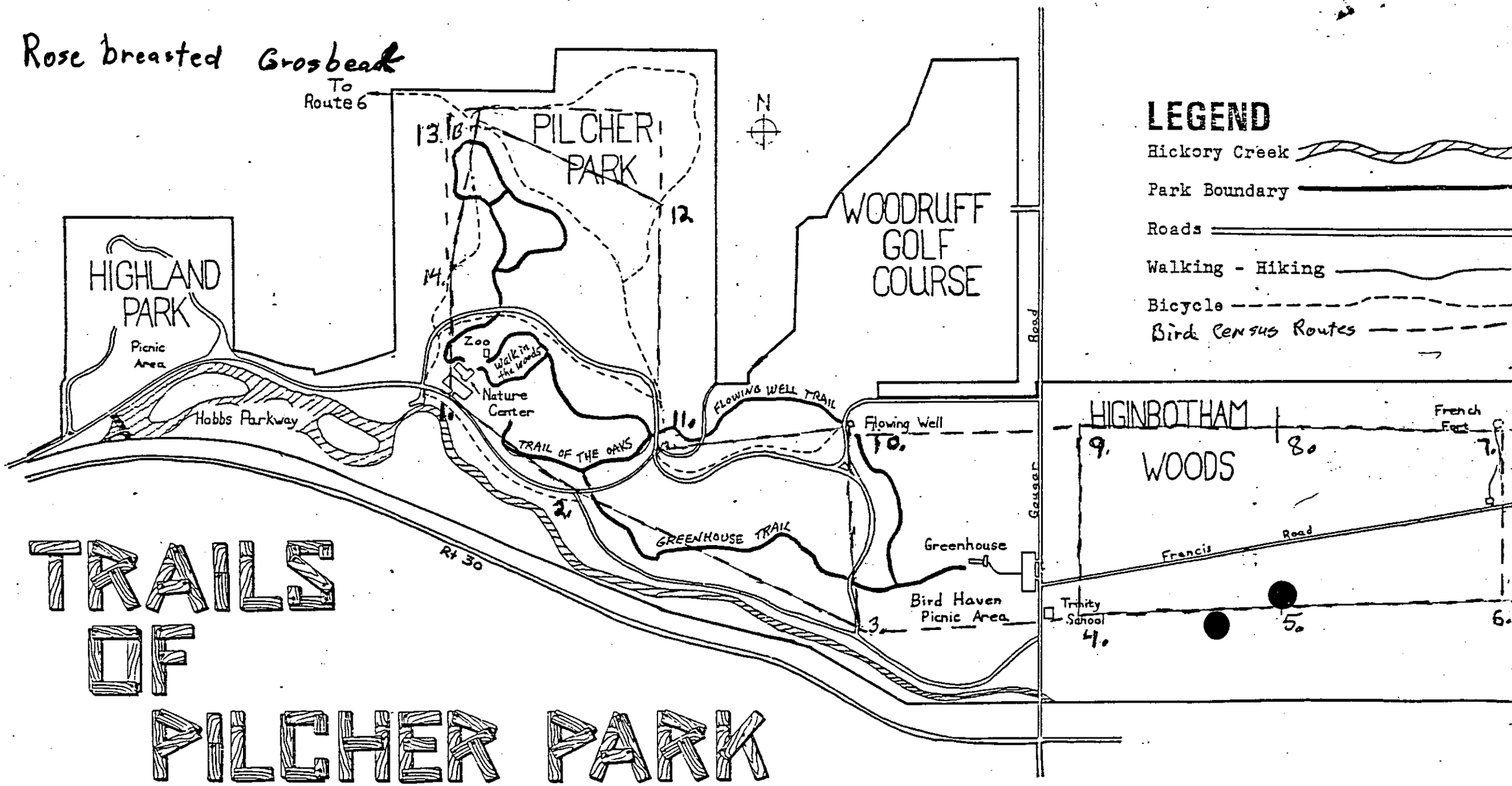
An Goldfinch



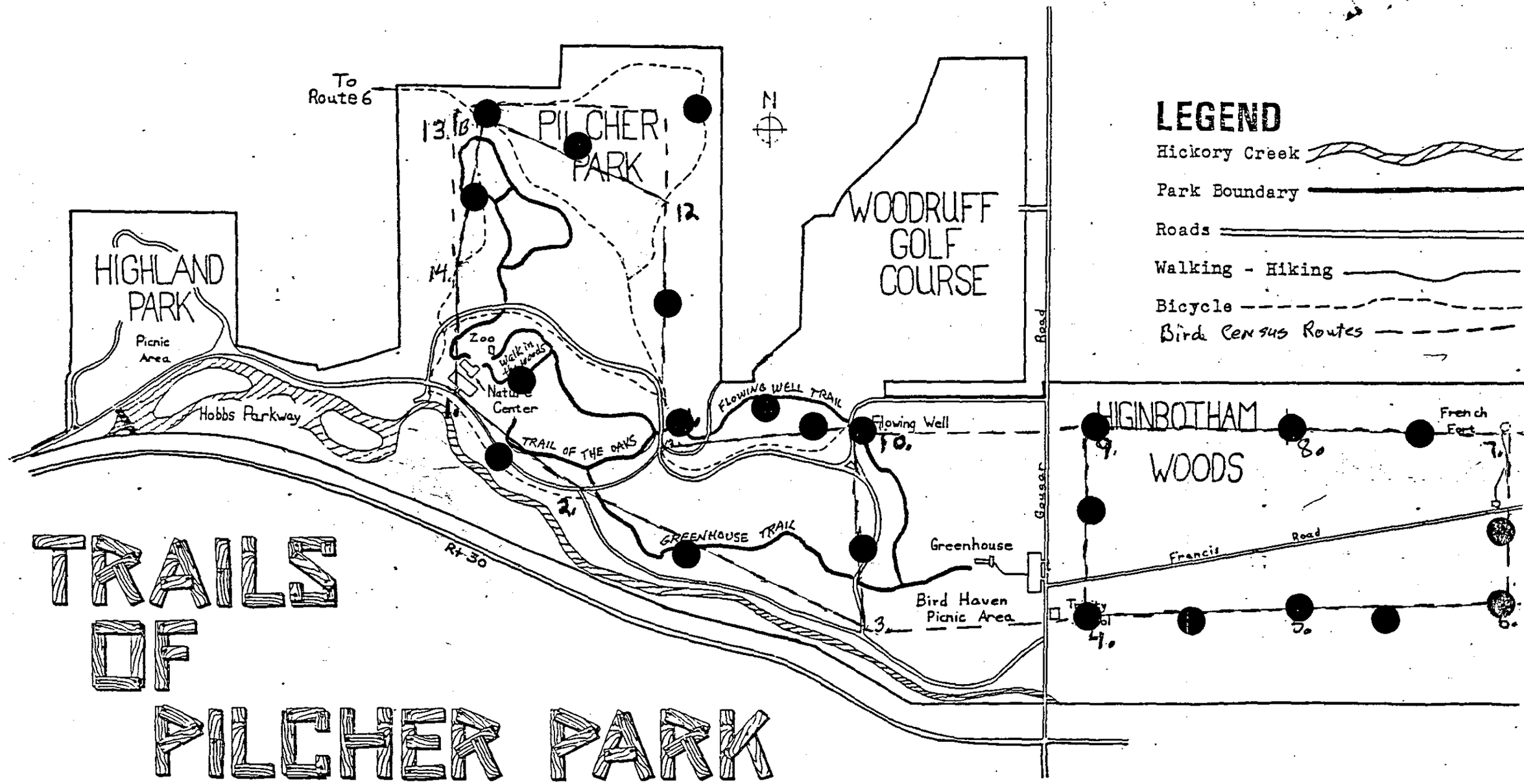
Indigo Bunting



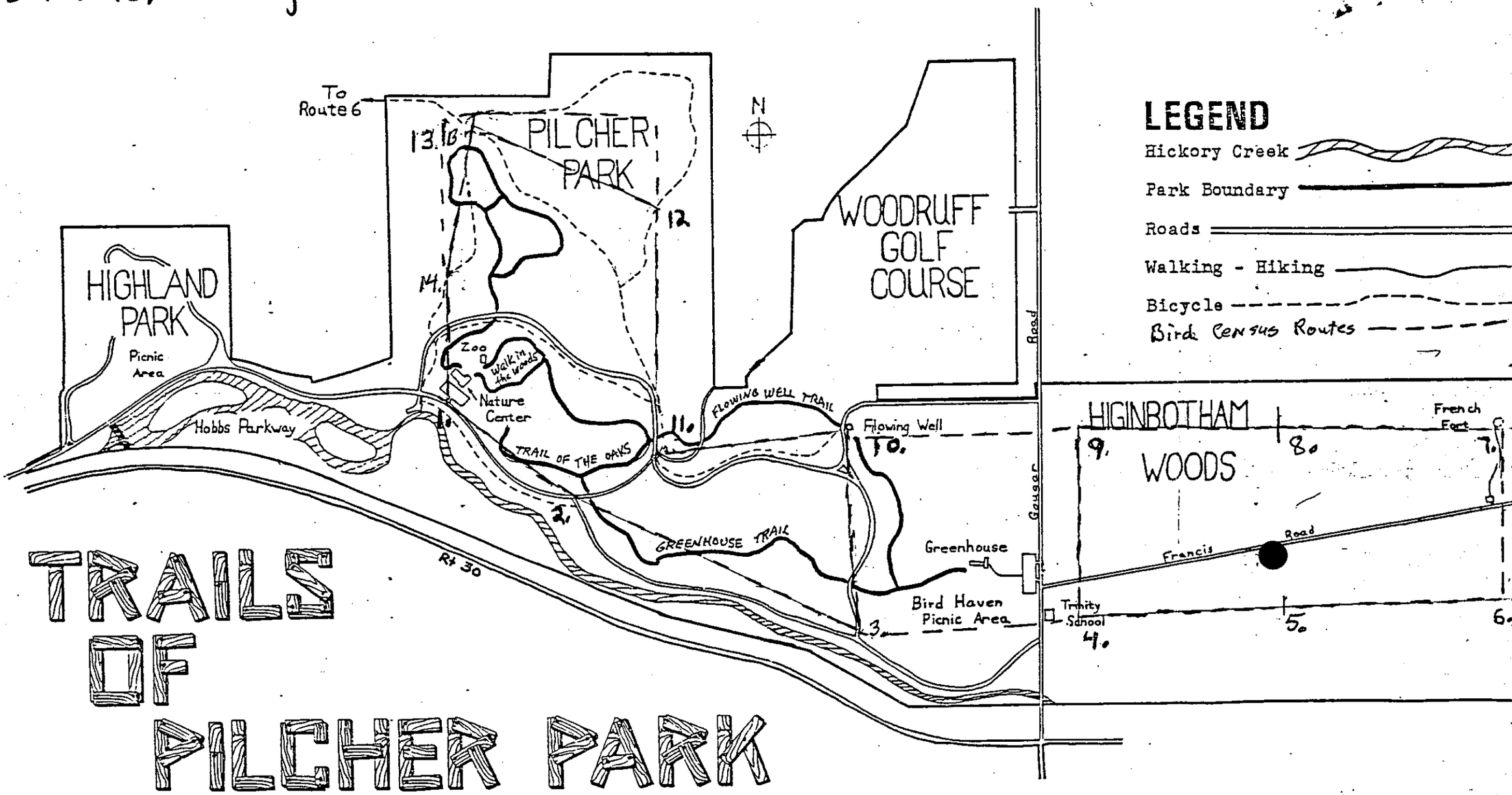
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK


Rose breasted Grosbeak
To Route 6
PILCHER PARK
HIGHLAND PARK
Picnic Area
Hobbs Parkway
Zoo
Walk in the woods
Nature Center
TRAIL OF THE OAKS
FLOWING WELL TRAIL
Flowing Well
GREENHOUSE TRAIL
Greenhouse
Bird Haven Picnic Area
Rt 30
WOODRUFF GOLF COURSE
Gauger Road
HIGINBOTHAM WOODS
Francis Road
Trinity School
French Fort
N
LEGEND
Hickory Creek
Park Boundary
Roads
Walking - Hiking
Bicycle
Bird Census Routes
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

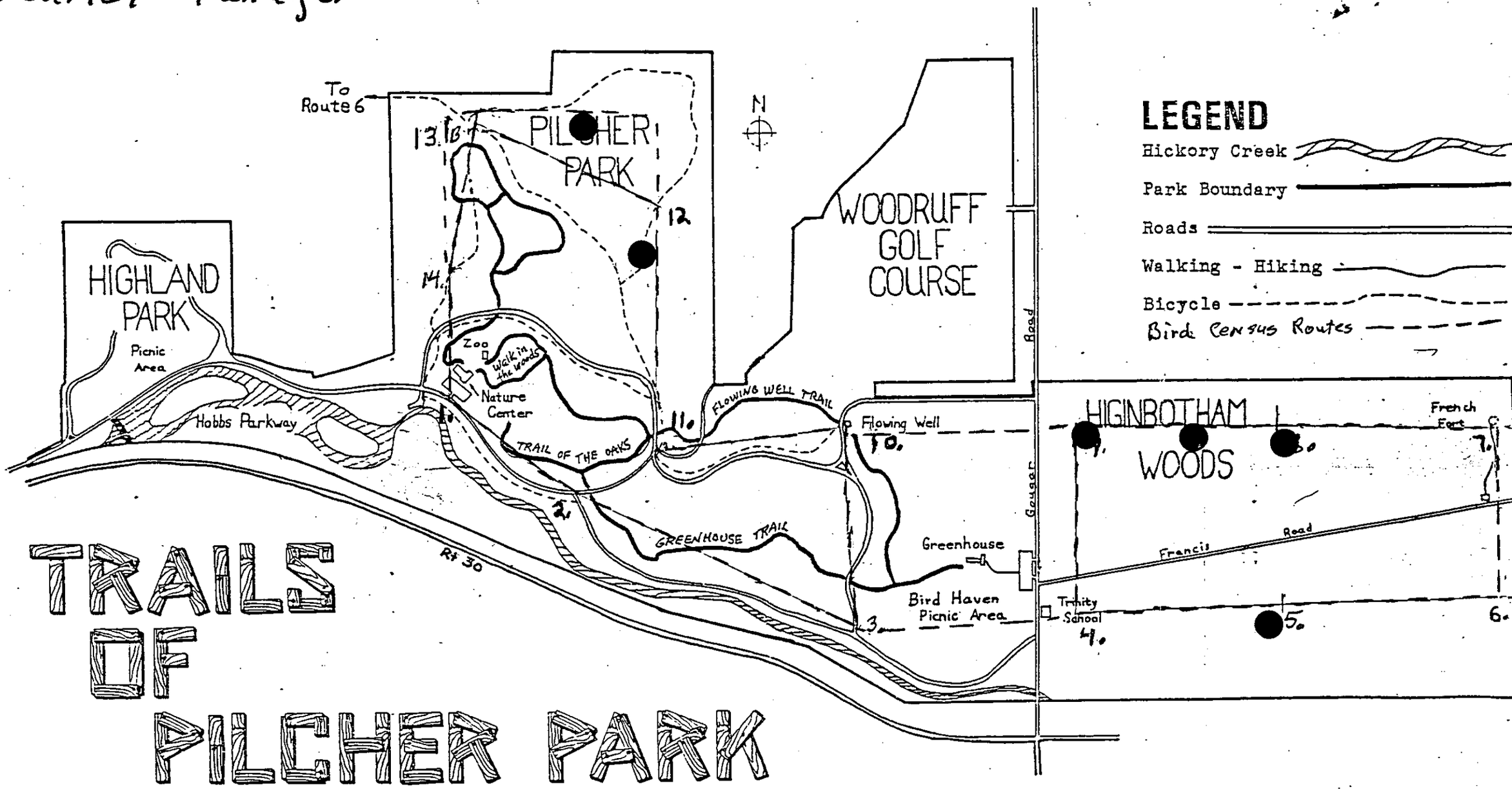
Northern Cardinal



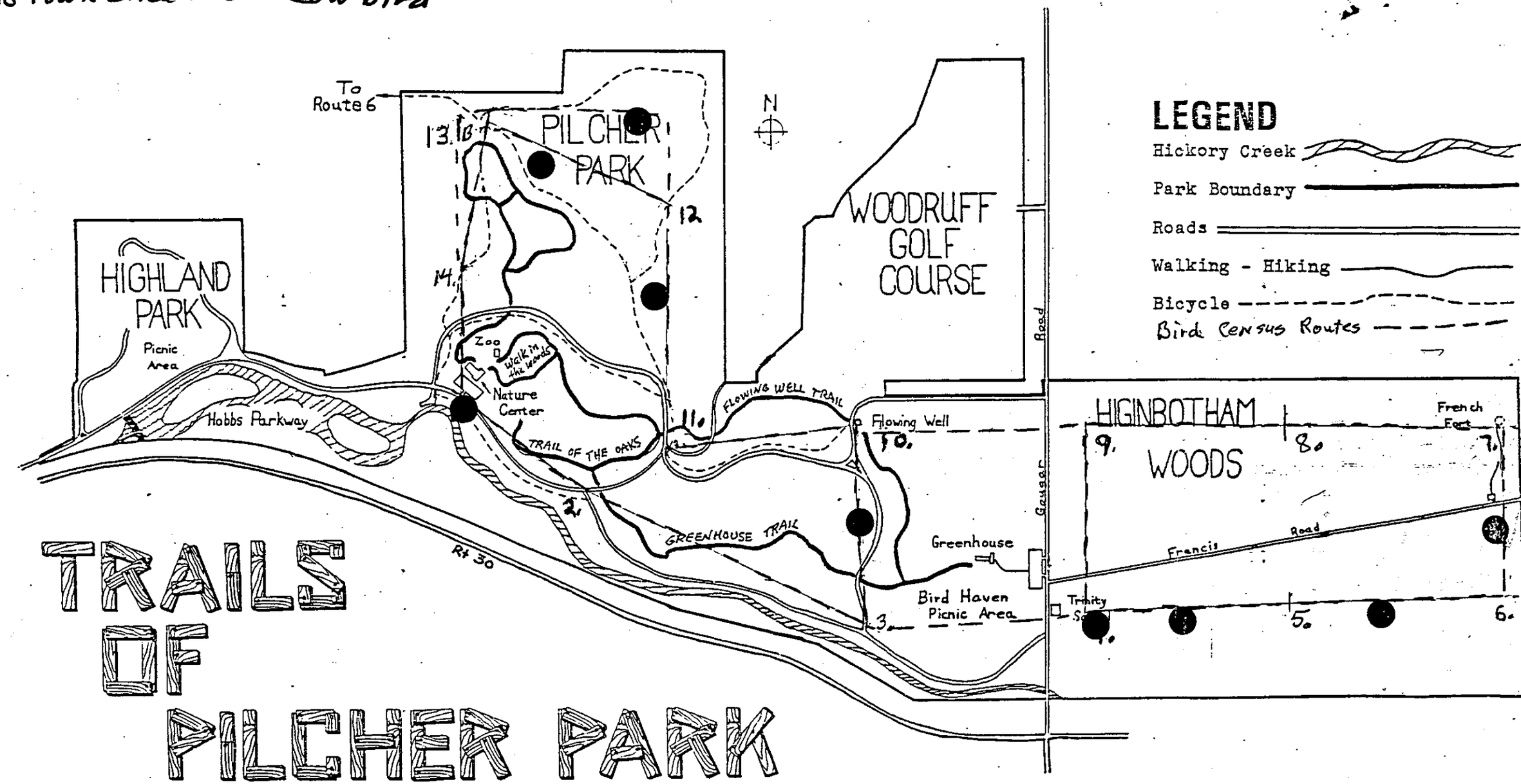
Summer teaager



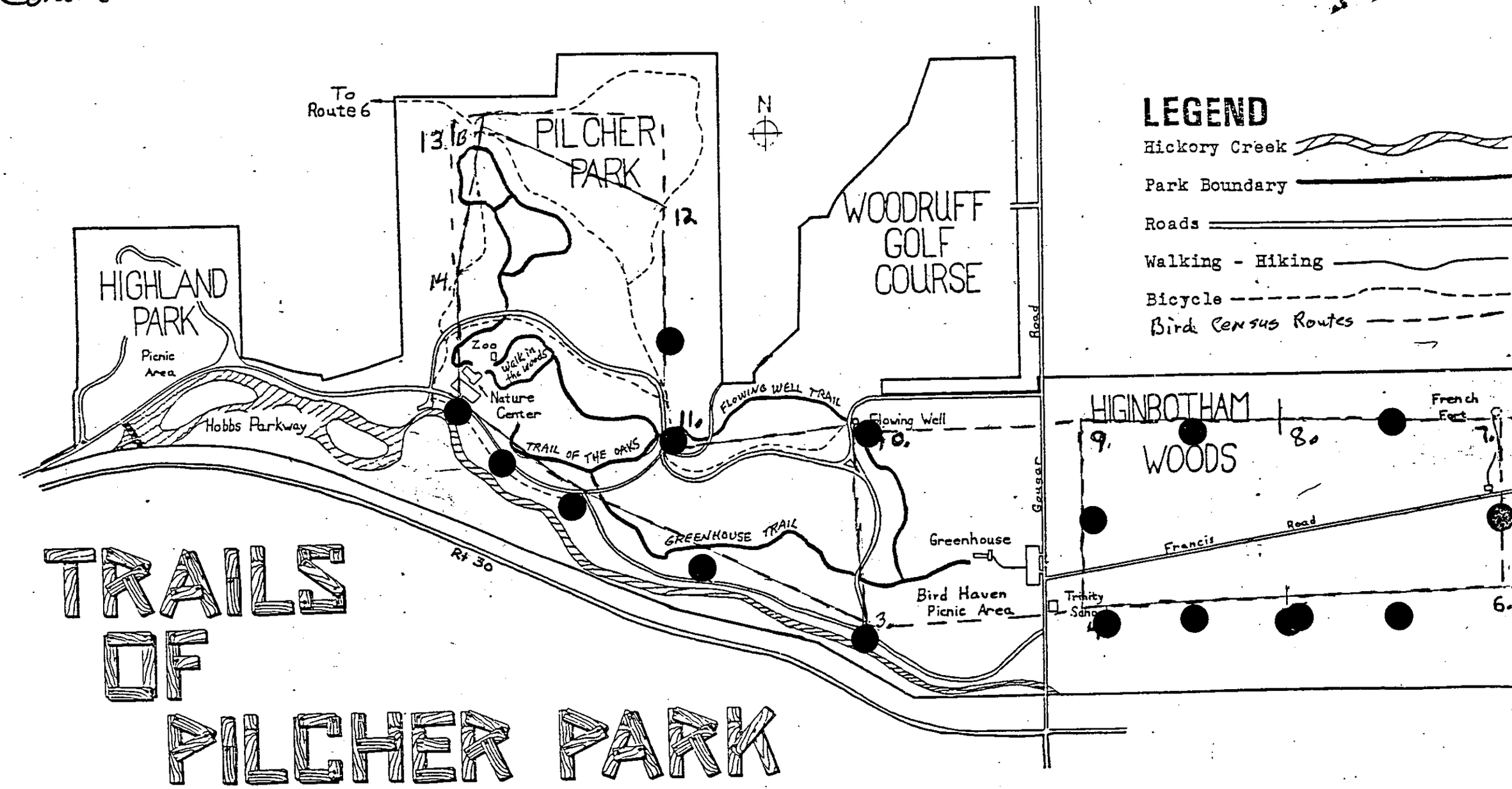
Scarlet tanager



Brown-headed Cowbird

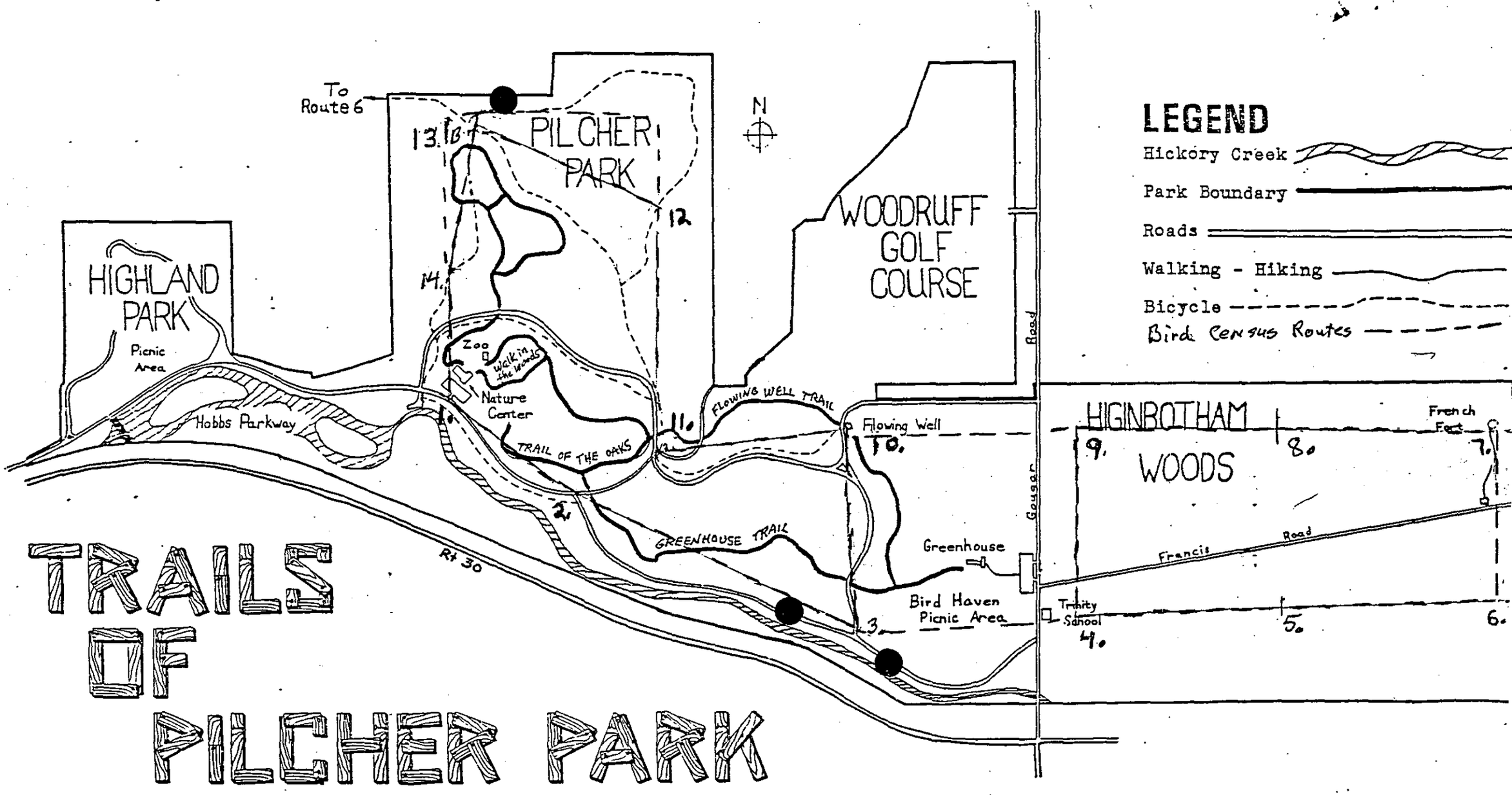


Common Grackle

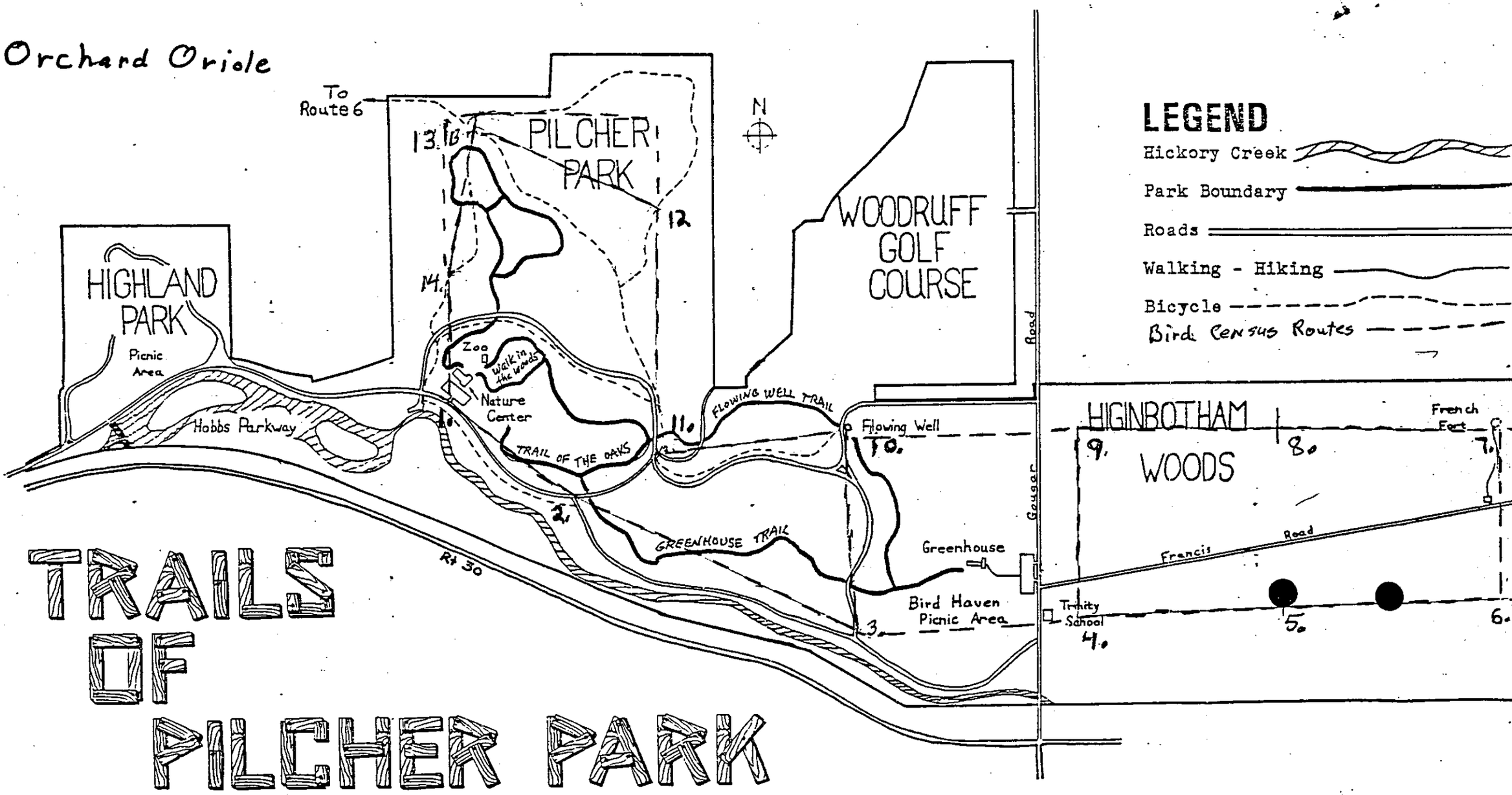


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

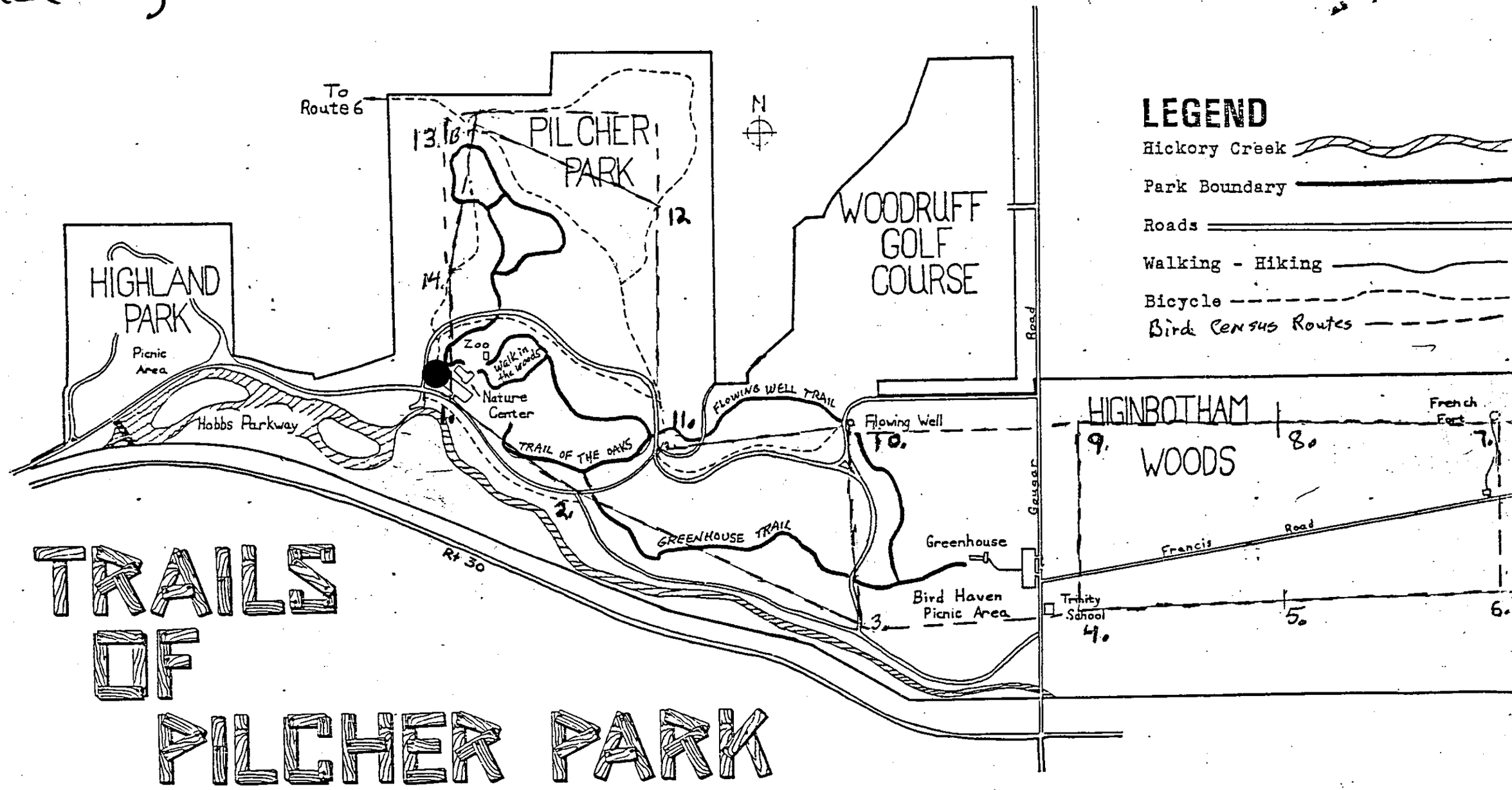
Northern Oriole



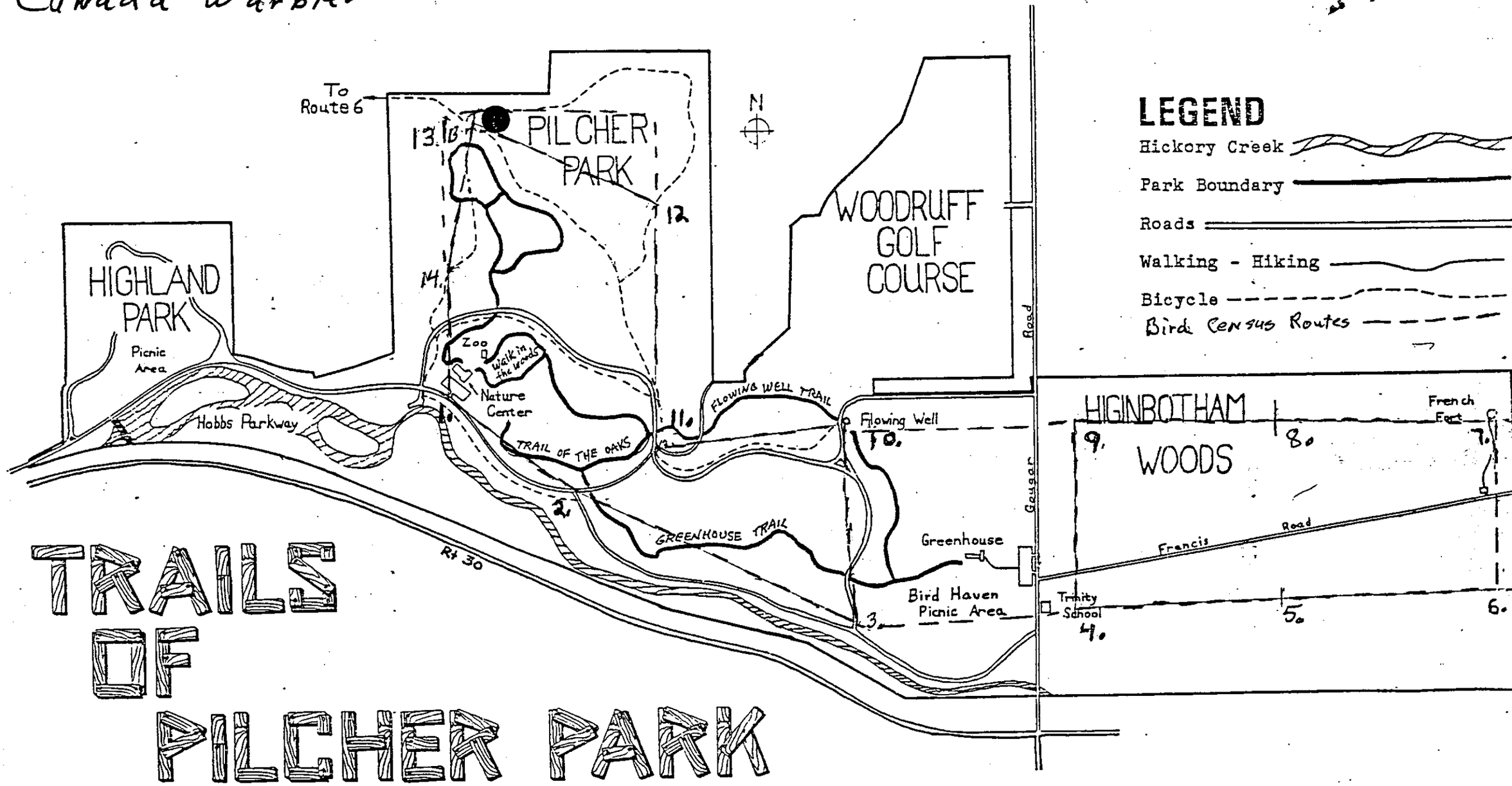
Orchard Oriole



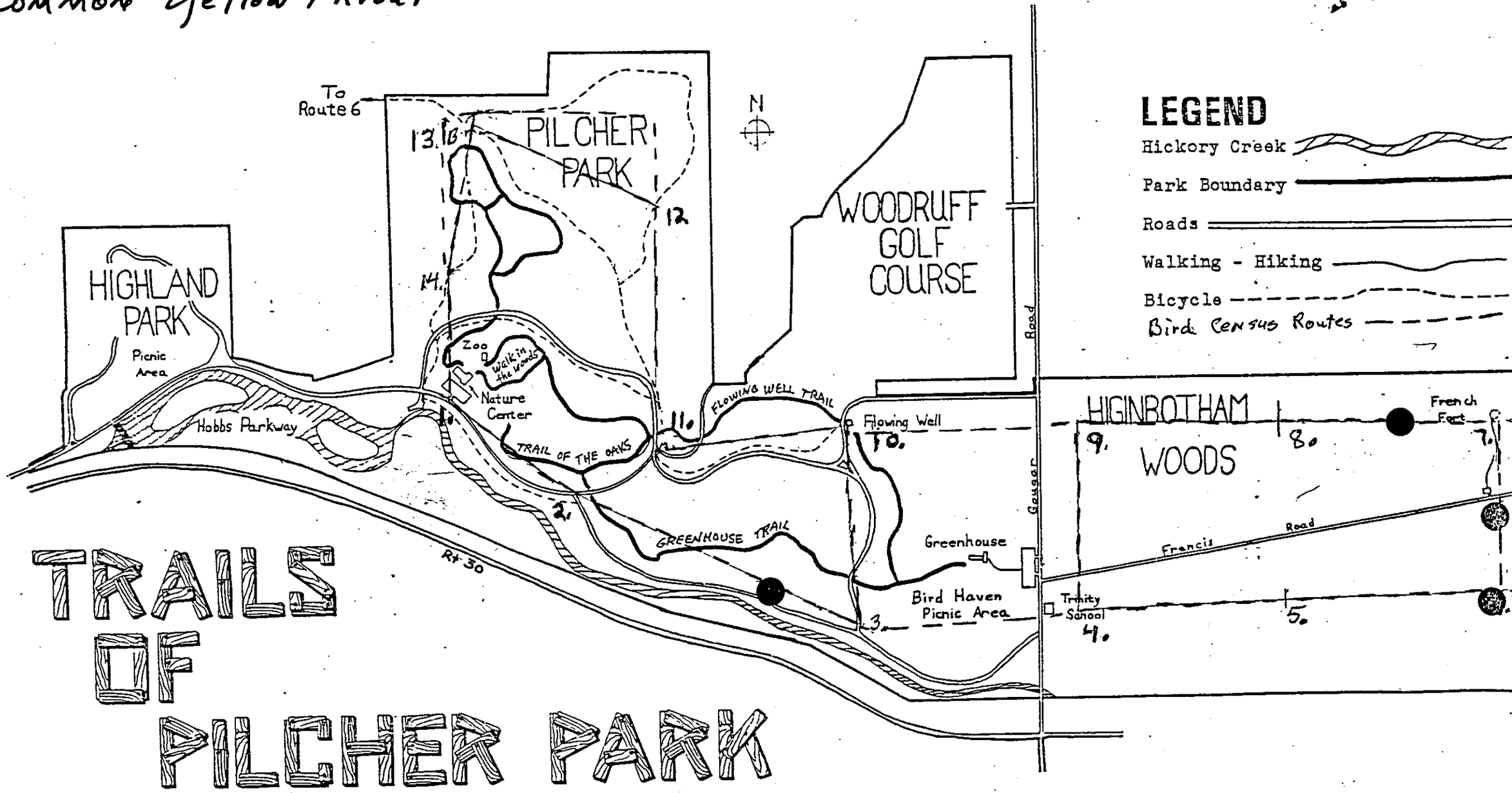
Red-winged Blackbird



Canada Warbler

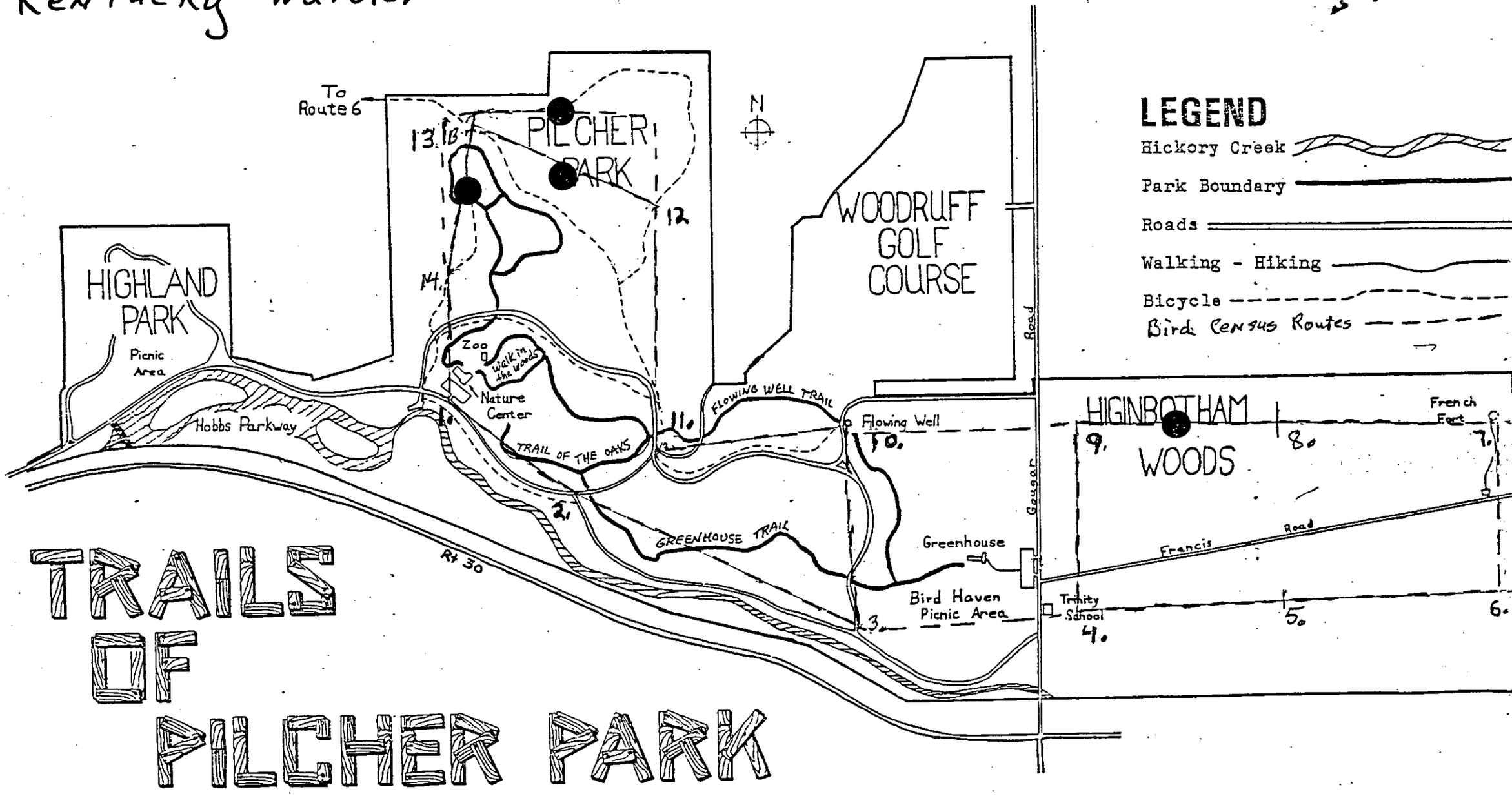


Common Yellow Throat



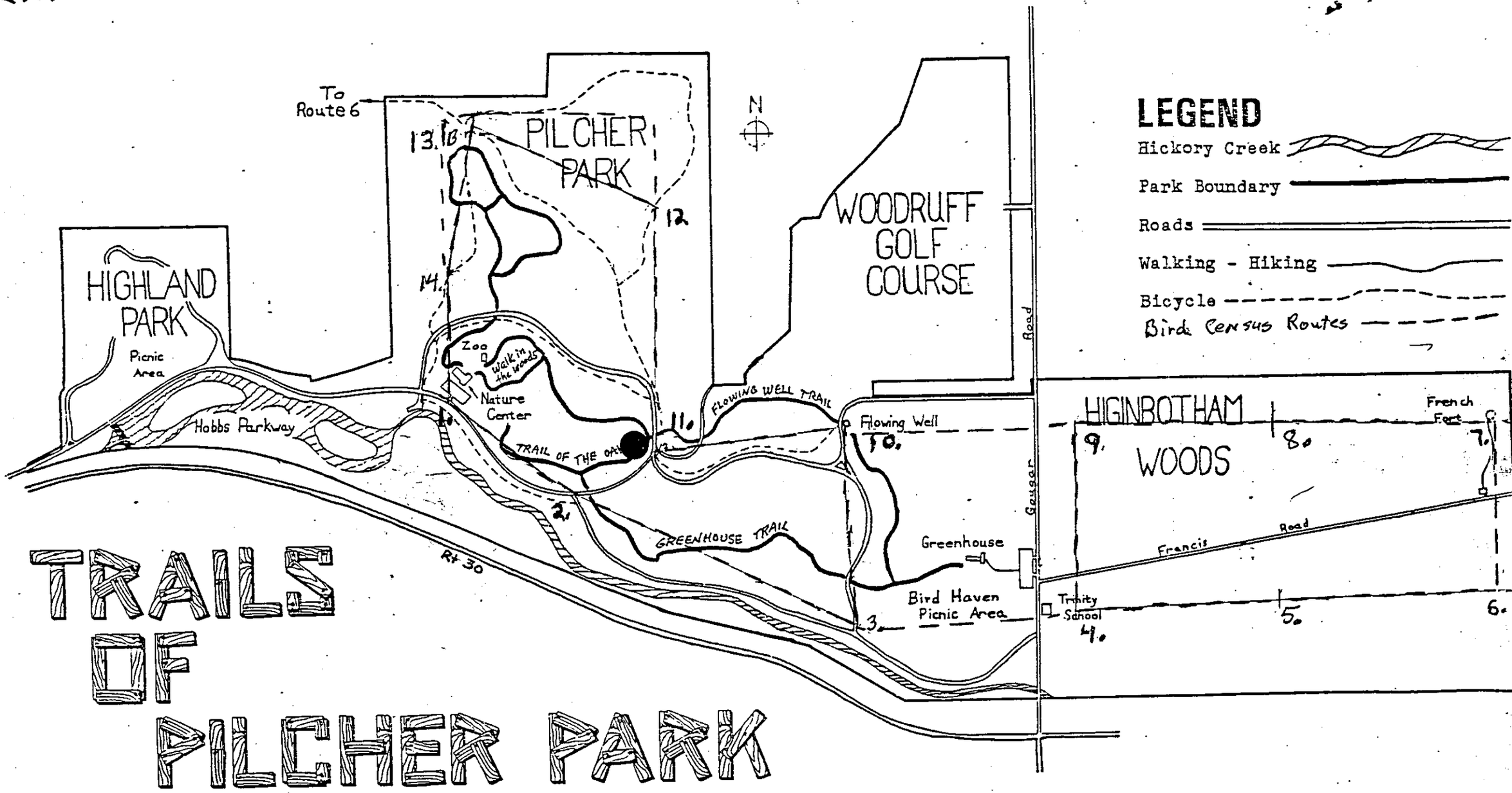
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Kentucky Warbler

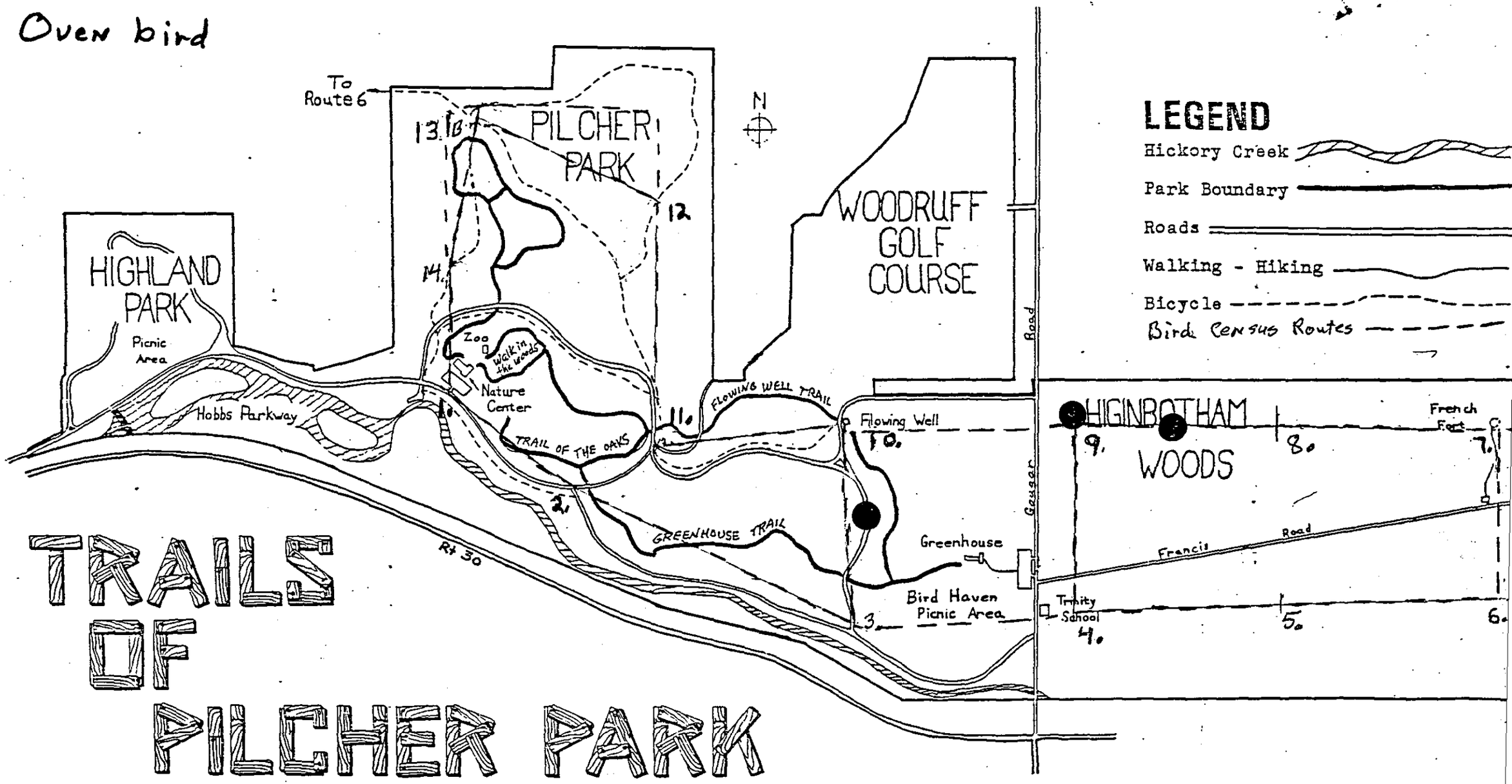


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

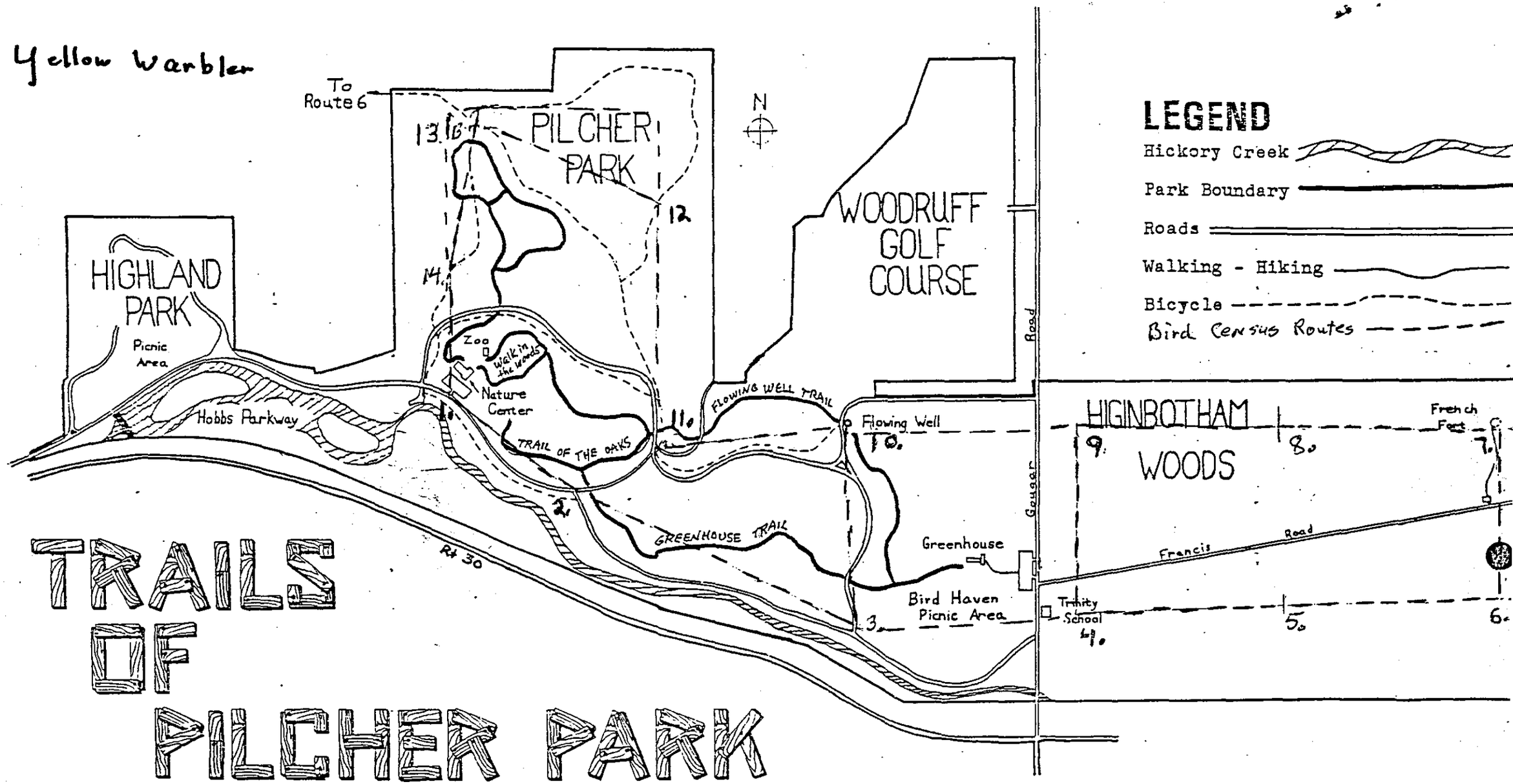
L.A. Water Thrush



Oven bird

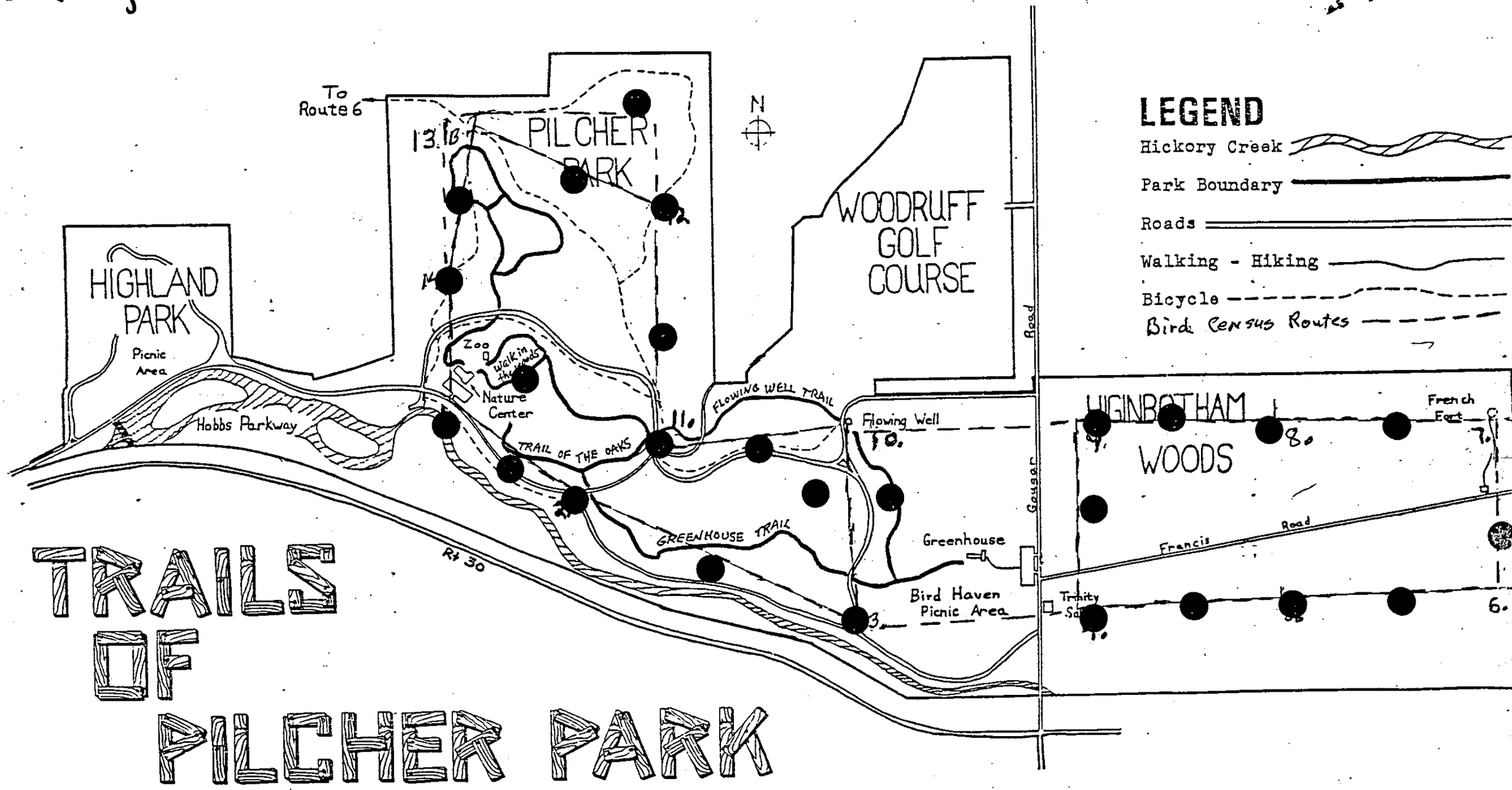

To Route 6
PILCHER PARK
N
WOODRUFF GOLF COURSE
HIGHLAND PARK
Picnic Area
Hobbs Parkway
Zoo
walk in the woods
Nature Center
TRAIL OF THE OAKS
FLOWING WELL TRAIL
Flowing Well
GREENHOUSE TRAIL
Greenhouse
Bird Haven Picnic Area
Rt 30
Gauger Road
HIGINBOTHAM WOODS
French Fort
Francis Road
Trinity School
LEGEND
Hickory Creek
Park Boundary
Roads
Walking - Hiking
Bicycle
Bird Census Routes
TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Yellow Warbler

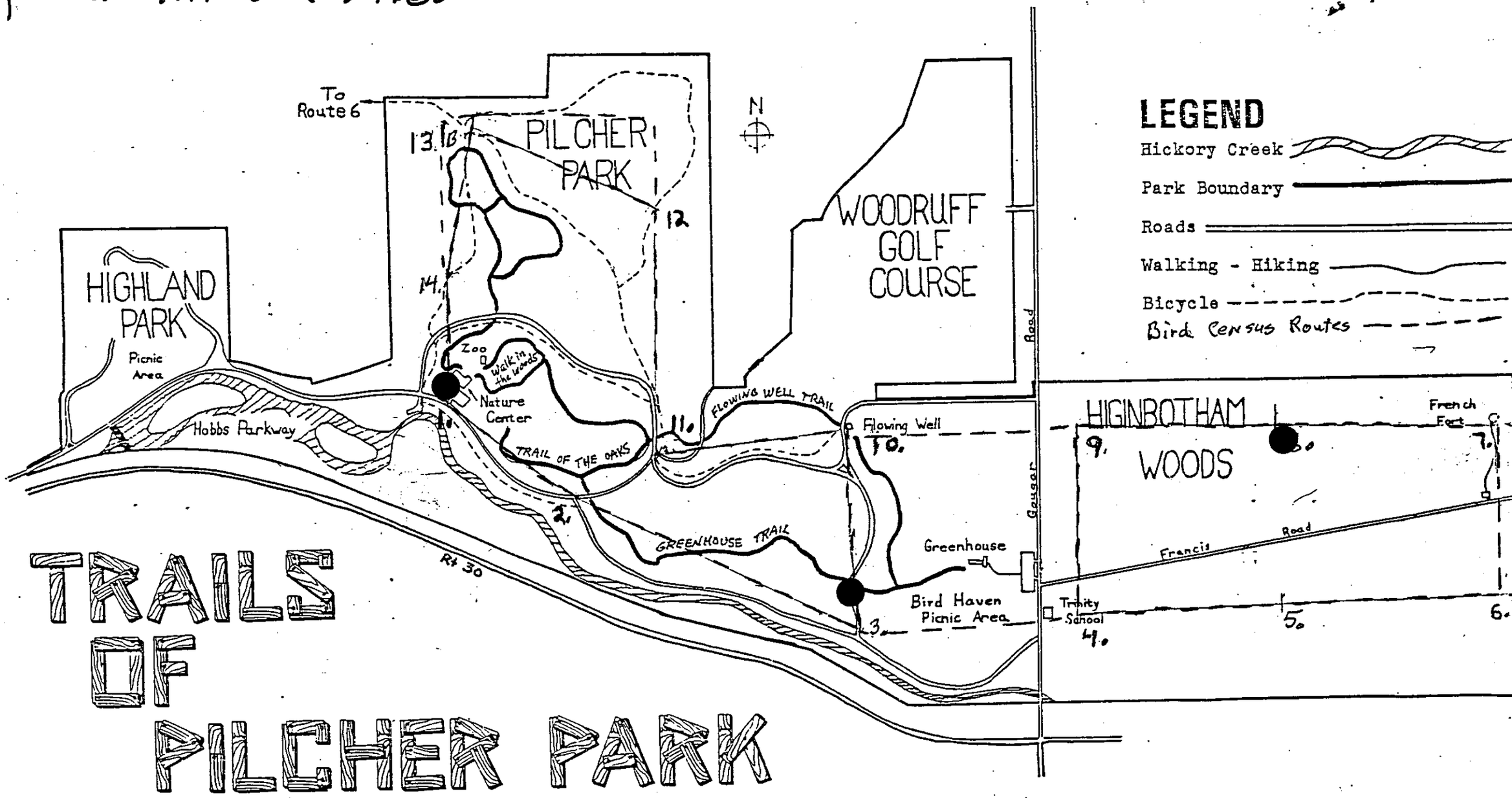


TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

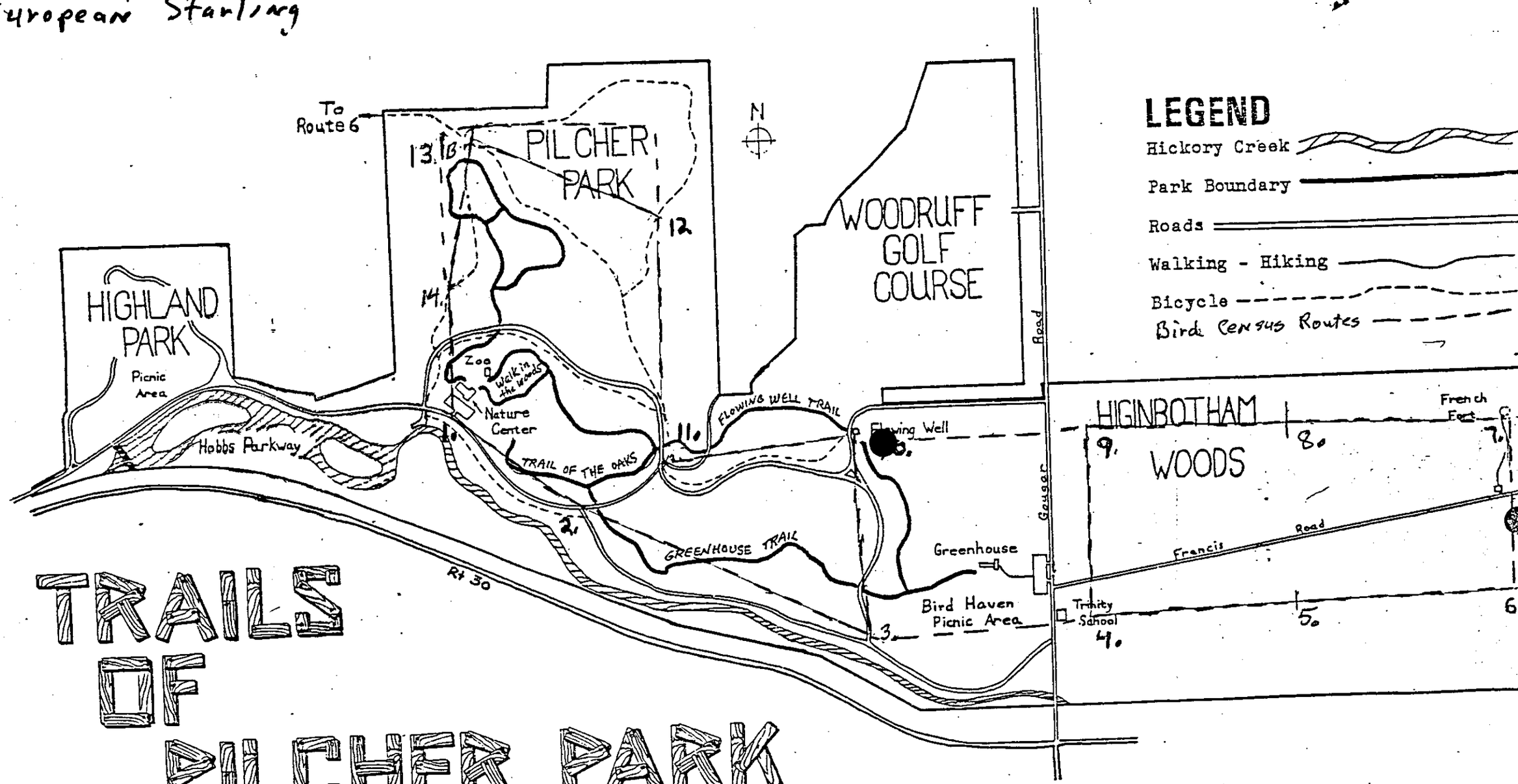
Red-eyed Vireo

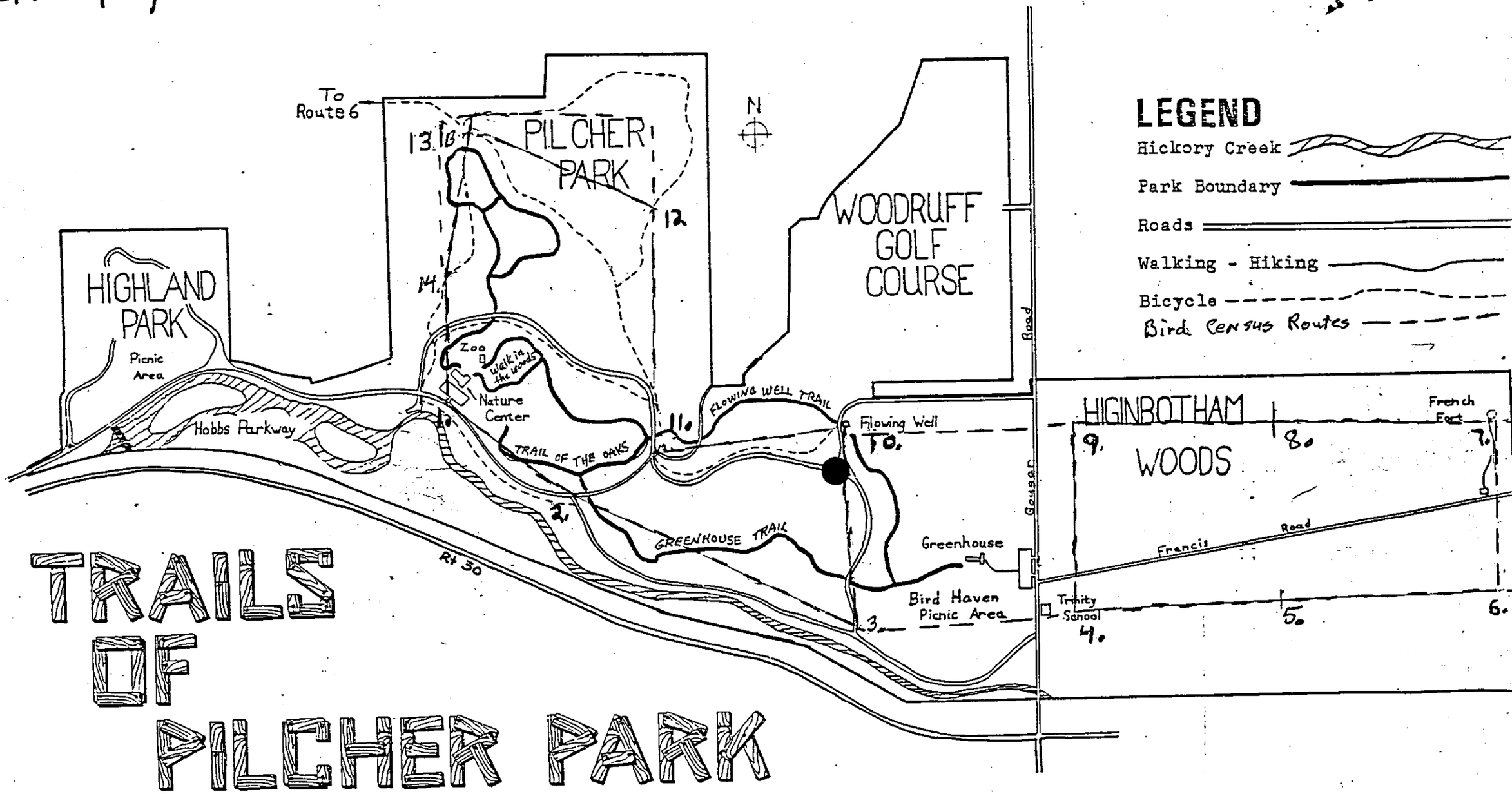


Yellow-Throated Vireo



European Starling



TRAILS OF PILCHER PARK

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher