



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Benton County

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Benton County Conservation Center

GPS Coordinates: 42.1931231570689,-92.0891189575195

Ownership: County

Description: The conservation center has a small indoor display and a nice outdoor feeder setup with a large window for viewing.

Habitat: Pasture and small woods. It is just West of Rodger's Park, so the feeders attract a nice mix of birds.

Directions: The address is 5718 20th Ave Drive, Vinton. It is located North West of Vinton and just West of Rodger's Lake. From Vinton go 2 miles West on US-218N. Turn North on 20th Ave Dr. Go 1.5 miles and the conservation center is on the right.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking |

Dudgeon Lake W.M.A.

GPS Coordinates: 42.194633417863,-92.0177936553955

Ownership: State

Description: The total Dudgeon Lake WMA is 1,818 acres. It is 1/4 upland, 1/4 marsh, 1/2 timber. There are mowed trails to hike.

Habitat: This is bottomland and is 1/4 marsh, 1/2 timber and 1/4 upland.

Directions: In northern Benton Co. From I-380 exit no. 41 at Urbana, take Hwy. 150 west and then south almost ten miles to the entrance on your right (west). Alternately, out of Vinton, take Hwy. 150 north less than two miles to the entrance on your left. Soon into the entrance, around a leftward bend, come to a boat launch and dike. The usual woods walk is to head straight west over the dike. Another long walk begins at the end of the entrance road, at its south end, and skirts the area beginning west and continuing northwest. The beginning of this walk is sometimes shallowly flooded. A .pdf map of the area is found at: www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/wildlife/wmamaps/dudgeon_lake
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/fwb/wildlife/maps/dudgeo~1.pdf>

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Dudgeon Lake W.M.A., prairie section

GPS Coordinates: 42.2104651373356,-92.0464181900024

Ownership: State

Description: This has about 40 acres of prairie. There is a path through part of the prairie that maintenance vehicles use and you can use to walk.

Habitat: Prairie and edge timber.

Directions: From I-380 exit no. 41 at Urbana, take Hwy. 150 west about 8.5 miles, including a turn south, past the airport to 55th St. Dr. (not 55th St. itself). Follow 55th St. Dr. west (right) just under two miles, including a turn south, to a typical DNR posts-and-cable vehicle entrance on your right.

Alternately, out of Vinton, take Hwy. 150 north three miles to 55th St. Dr., and then as above.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Hannen Lake

GPS Coordinates: 41.8642716240955,-92.1166920661926

Ownership: County

Description: This park is 180 acres with a 50 acre lake. There are trails and ongoing prairie and wetland restoration.

Habitat: Lake, woods, small prairie and wetlands.

Directions: This is well signed and the drive South of Blairstown is nice and has good habitat. The address is 1949 Benton Iowa Rd, Blairstown. Take V-56 South of Blairstown for 1 mile. Turn right on 78th Street for 0.5 miles. Turn left on 20th Ave for 2.3 miles. Then turn right on Benton Iowa Road for 0.5 miles. The park is on your right.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | Camping | Cabins |

Hoefle-Dulin

GPS Coordinates: 42.162290054259,-91.9817876815796

Ownership: None listed

Description: This is a lovely 62 acre county park located along the Cedar River. There is a boat ramp, shelter and picnic tables. The trails do not appear to be maintained.

Habitat: This county park is right along the river. The mowed areas have tall trees. The paths in the timber do not appear to be maintained.

Directions: The park address is 5901 27th Ave, Vinton. The access road to the park is low and prone to flooding. I would not plan a visit after a heavy rain or when lowland flooding is present. Just on the South edge of Vinton go East on E-24 2.2 miles. Turn left onto 27th Ave. 27th Ave dead ends in the park.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Camping |

Minne Estema

GPS Coordinates: 42.2596834178443,-92.0142316818237

Ownership: County

Description: This 63 acre park has campsites, pit toilets, drinking water, boat ramp, fishing, shelter/pavilion, picnic areas and a playground.

Habitat: It is located along the Cedar River and has woods with open mowed areas. It is a lovely spot and appears to be especially good during migration.

Directions: The address is 5621 24th Ave Drive, Vinton, Iowa. From Vinton, drive North on Hwy 150 4 miles. Turn left onto 24th Ave Drive and go 2.5 miles. Turn left into the park.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Camping |

Rodgers Lake

GPS Coordinates: 42.1948559795605,-92.0825958251953

Ownership: County

Description: This park has a 21 acre lake, fishing, boat ramp, picnic areas and shelters and hiking trails.

Habitat: Lake, some wetlands, woods and prairie.

Directions: This park is well signed. It is Northwest of Vinton. From Vinton go West 2 miles on US-218N. Turn right onto 20th Ave Drive. Go 1.5 miles and turn right onto 57th Street Trail. The entrance to the park is well marked on your left.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | Camping | ADA Accessible Trails