



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Decatur County

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Home Pond (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6275684850803,-93.946967124939

Has Site Guide

Ownership: City

Description: A small lake with a water treatment plant, brushy edges and grassland surrounding. (a bike trail does go around the lake, but is not assessable from Mulberry Street.)

Habitat: Open water, attracting ducks, gulls, shorebirds and kingfishers.

Directions: Located on the North West corner of Lamoni, Take North Mulberry off of West Main three blocks. The road circles the treatment plant, there are areas to pull off and park along this circle.

Amenities: Parking |

Lake LaShane (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6381857699352,-93.9683818817139

Has Site Guide

Ownership: City

Description: A small lake with marsh at the North end. There are two tracts of pine trees that are very good to check in migration and winter. This lake attracts ducks, shorebirds, warblers and Long-eared Owls.

Habitat: Open water, marsh, woodland edges with pine trees. Very good spot during migration and winter.

Directions: From Lamoni continue on West Main West out of town(turns into co. hwy J-55). Turn North on Elk Chapel road, go 1 mile to 280thst. turn left or West, in about 1/2 mile the road crosses the lake. You can see most of the water from this road. Just on the west side of the bridge is a small unmarked parking area that is not graveled(if wet, park along the road). There is a mowed trail starting at the gate on the South side of the parking area, this takes you around the lake and through the pine trees. DO NOT USE THIS TRAIL DURING HUNTING SEASON. You can also walk North along the lake to the marshy area but there is no trail.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities:

Lamoni Bike Trail

GPS Coordinates: 40.6237331458529,-93.9519023895264

Ownership: City

Description: A very easy paved trail with a variety of habitats. Wooded edges, pasture, and urban. total trail len length is 4.7 miles, but can be done in shorter stretches.

Habitat: wooded edges, small ponds pasture, small creeks.

Directions: The best place to bird is on the West end. from I-35 exit 4, go about 2 miles West. This will take you through Lamoni, as you go West out of town there will be a historical site called Liberty Hall.

The trail starts from the parking lot. This trail goes around Home Pond and some smaller farm ponds. To start at the East end, from exit 4 turn South beside the Kum-and-go station on to Spruce. Go two blocks to E. second street, turn right or West to the parking lot. this end of the trail follows an abandoned railroad bed.

Amenities: Parking |

Lamoni Sewage Lagoons

GPS Coordinates: 40.607860154564,-93.9277839660645

Ownership: City

Description: City of Lamoni sewage treatment facility, only one pond viewable from road without permission to enter.

Habitat: open water good for ducks, sometimes shorebirds. The middle lagoon has marsh vegetation, Great-tailed Grackles Marsh Wren.

Directions: I-35 south to exit 4 (Lamoni), then turn right (west). Go about 3 miles and turn left on S. Smith St. Go one mile and turn right on gravel road next to golf course. 1/2 mile will be sewer lagoons.

Amenities:

Little River RA (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 40.7680617093661,-93.7780952453613

Has Site Guide

Ownership: County

Description:

Habitat: Lake surrounded by woods, some grassland. Waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds.

Directions: Exit 12 from I-35. Go east on Highway 2 - towards Leon. About 3.25 miles or so, Lakeview Road will be on the left. Lakeview Road takes you along the West side of the lake. There is only one good spot to view the water from this side, and that is at the West end of the dam. The next left, Little River Lake Road, actually goes around to several spots closer to the water, with restrooms, parking and lake access. Taking this road north, the road does a hard right turning into NW 18th st. Follow this for a mile or so and then turn left on 235 th Ave to go the camping and swimming area.

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

Nine Eagles SP (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6006595,-93.7631607

Has Site Guide

Ownership: State

Description: Iowa State Park, Mature woodlands surrounding a small lake.

Habitat: Dense wooded areas, attracting many species in migration. Nesting habitat for Wood Thrush, and Kentucky Warbler.

Directions: From Lamoni, take Highway 69 east about 4 miles until you get to Dale Miller Road. Turn south and go about 5 miles.

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

Slip Bluff County Park (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6509503,-93.8486481

Has Site Guide

Ownership: County

Description: This delightful county park backs up to one of the more scenic rest areas in the Iowa Interstate system and can actually be accessed by foot trail from the rest area.

Habitat: Oak-hickory timber and grasslands surround a man-made lake. The area is good for southern species like Summer Tanager.

Directions: From Interstate 35 take the Lamoni exit and go west to the first turn back north (163rd Ave). Go north to a T-intersection with 160th st. Turn right (east) crossing the Interstate. Once you are across the highway, watch for the first turn back north which will be Slip Bluff Rd. This takes you into the park.

Public Hunting Area

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