



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Delaware County

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Backbone State Park (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 42.6228442,-91.5617752

Ownership: State

Description: This is a great place to visit. It has camping, cabins to rent, 21 miles of trails, swimming beach, lake, trout fishing, boats to rent, boat ramp, picnic tables, grills and toilets.

Habitat: 2001 acres, mostly timber, with the lake, stream, and scenic bluffs. It is a great place to go bird watching.

Directions: The address is 1282 120th Street, Strawberry Point. The park has more than one entrance, but directions to the main entrance are as follows. From Strawberry Point go South on HWY 3 for 2 miles. Turn right onto W69 (Forestville Rd) and go 4 miles. This becomes 140th Ave. Turn right onto 129th Street and this will take you into the park. From Manchester go North on IA-13 for 6 miles. Turn left onto C 64 (150th St) and go 3 miles. Turn right onto Firefly Rd and go 1 mile. Turn left onto 129th St and this will take you into the park.

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

Bailey's Ford Park

GPS Coordinates: 42.4470847584744,-91.4101123809814

Ownership: County

Description: 170 acre park with trout stream, woods, trails, picnic shelters, nature center, and playground equipment.

Habitat: Woods, meadows, trout stream. It is a lovely spot and quite birdy.

Directions: This park is located 3 miles Southeast of Manchester. The address is 2379 Jefferson Road, Manchester. From Manchester, take East Main Street East 0.5 miles to X21 (also known as Bailey Dr). Turn right onto X21 for 1 mile. Then follow it to the South and it becomes Jefferson Road. Go 3 miles and Bailey's Ford Park is on your right. The signs to the park are clear.

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

Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.3218741587548,-91.5654230117798

Ownership: State

Description: The West side has a parking lot with very nice mowed trails and a picnic table. The East side has a poorly maintained parking lot. You can hike in following an old road. You should wear rubber boots. Follow the vague trail as it hugs the fence line to your right. Then you can hike to the ponds. Bring your scope. This can be good for waterfowl and shorebirds. It might be best to review Google Maps or the Site URL included below before you go. The East side and the West side are divided by Buffalo Creek and there are no trails that connect the two.

Habitat: 2/5ths timber, 1/2 grassland, river and wetland.

Directions: From Ryan go south on HWY 13 2.5 miles. Turn right and go 4 miles West on 325th St. to

120th St. You will see a poorly maintained parking lot and this gives access to the East side. For access to the West Unit, just North of the intersection of County Rd W63 and 325th St there is a signed but poorly visible entrance to the parking lot on the East side of the highway.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Fountain Springs NRA

GPS Coordinates: 42.6140647823981,-91.312952041626

Ownership: County

Description: This is a 240 acre park that mostly is used by trout fisherman. There are signs warning that park roads maybe subject to flooding. It has pit toilets, picnic tables and parking areas.

Habitat: Oak Road is easily walked. It follows the trout stream and is surrounded by woods.

Directions: This park is also known as Holbert Park. It is located 2.5 miles Northeast of Greeley. The address is 2511 Oak Road, Greeley. From Greeley, take North Front Street North. There is a slight bend to the East and Front Street becomes Nature Road. Drive 1 mile and turn right onto Oak Road. You will arrive at the park in about 1.5 miles.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Restrooms | Parking |

Silver Lake (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.4255473112975,-91.3232517242432

Ownership: County

Description: 53 acres total with 34 acre lake and small amount of timber. You can drive around it, but there is a mix of private and public land. There is enough room on HWY 38 to pull off and scope the lake. This can be the best access to find shorebirds. At the park there are picnic tables, picnic shelter, play ground, pit toilets, boat ramp, and fishing. This is a fairly small lake and park.

Habitat: Lake, shorebird habitat at times, small woods.

Directions: This park is located at the SE corner of the town of Delhi. From the middle of Delhi, go to Hwy 38. Turn South on Lake Street and this will take you into the park.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails |

Turtle Creek Park

GPS Coordinates: 42.4019109506336,-91.3791275024414

Ownership: County

Description: 200 acre park, with camping, boat ramp, pit toilets, picnic tables with covered shelter, grills, and playground.

Habitat: 200 acre park with open mowed areas and trees.

Directions: The address is 2124 267th Street, Manchester. From Manchester, take X21 (Jefferson Rd) Southeast 7 miles. Turn left onto 267th St and go 1.6 miles. The park is on your right.

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

