

THE MAKOKE TRAIL

A Guide to Birding in Central Iowa



MAKOKE
TRAIL

INTRODUCTION



Photo by Carl Kurtz

CENTRAL IOWA offers some of the most diverse birding opportunities in the state. All the sites in this guide are located within a short drive (about 30 miles) of the state capital and largest metropolitan area, Des Moines. This area lies in the heart of the tallgrass prairie region, an ecosystem that once dominated the upper Midwest.

The Bobolink was chosen for the logo because it is a grassland-dependent species that is representative of the tallgrass prairies, present at the four featured sites, and always a thrill to see. It has benefited from the restoration of prairies and grasslands that is taking place in Central Iowa. The birding trail was named Makoke (MAH-koh-kay) because it means “bird” or “owl” in the language of the loway tribe. This name was chosen in honor of the people who formerly inhabited much of Iowa. The loway culture and sacred stories are deeply rooted with the native Iowa birds and other wildlife.

Interwoven with the urban areas and farm fields of Central Iowa is a surprising array of natural lands ranging in size from a few acres to several thousand acres. This guide will help you find a representation of these out-of-the-way spots that include a surprising diversity of more than 300 birds. These sites provide refuge for wildlife including birds as they migrate, nest, and winter. The Des Moines, Raccoon, and Skunk Rivers, lined by hardwood forests along their banks, run through central Iowa, offering habitat for many migrating warblers, including nesting species such as Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Cerulean Warblers. Oak savanna, one of Iowa’s most endangered natural communities, still exists in small pockets throughout the area and supports Red-headed Woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebirds, and Orchard Orioles. Shrubby areas and thickets provide habitat for Bell’s Vireos, Brown Thrashers, and American Woodcocks. Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Henslow’s and Grasshopper Sparrows, and both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks dwell in the prairies and grasslands. Wetlands shelter Yellow-headed Blackbirds, American and Least Bitterns, several species of rails



Black-and-white Warbler Photo by Jay Gilliam



American Goldfinch Photo by Jay Gilliam

and herons, migrating shorebirds, and Swamp Sparrows. Large lakes provide habitat for many species of ducks, American White Pelicans, Osprey, Bald Eagles, and other waterbirds, including many rare species. The natural communities of Central Iowa are being revitalized through intensive restoration work at many locations.

While not meant to be comprehensive, the sites presented here represent a sampling of some of the richest areas in the state for observing birds. Each site was selected because it provides opportunities for exceptional birdwatching. Sites vary in size and types of viewing opportunities. The four featured sites (Red Rock Reservoir, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, and Saylorville Reservoir) are larger areas that provide additional facilities for visitors, such as visitor’s centers, campgrounds, and trail networks. All wildlife sites are free and open to the public.

An overview map as well as maps of each site will guide you along the trail. This guide also provides information on where to go, what to expect, and other information on birding the area. The area provides many opportunities for lodging and dining.

Public hunting is allowed in several of these areas. Use the contact information provided for more details in regards to hunting. For additional information and current reports on birding in central Iowa, visit the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union website at www.iowabirds.org.

FRONT COVER: Bobolink
BACK COVER: Birding
Eastern Meadowlark

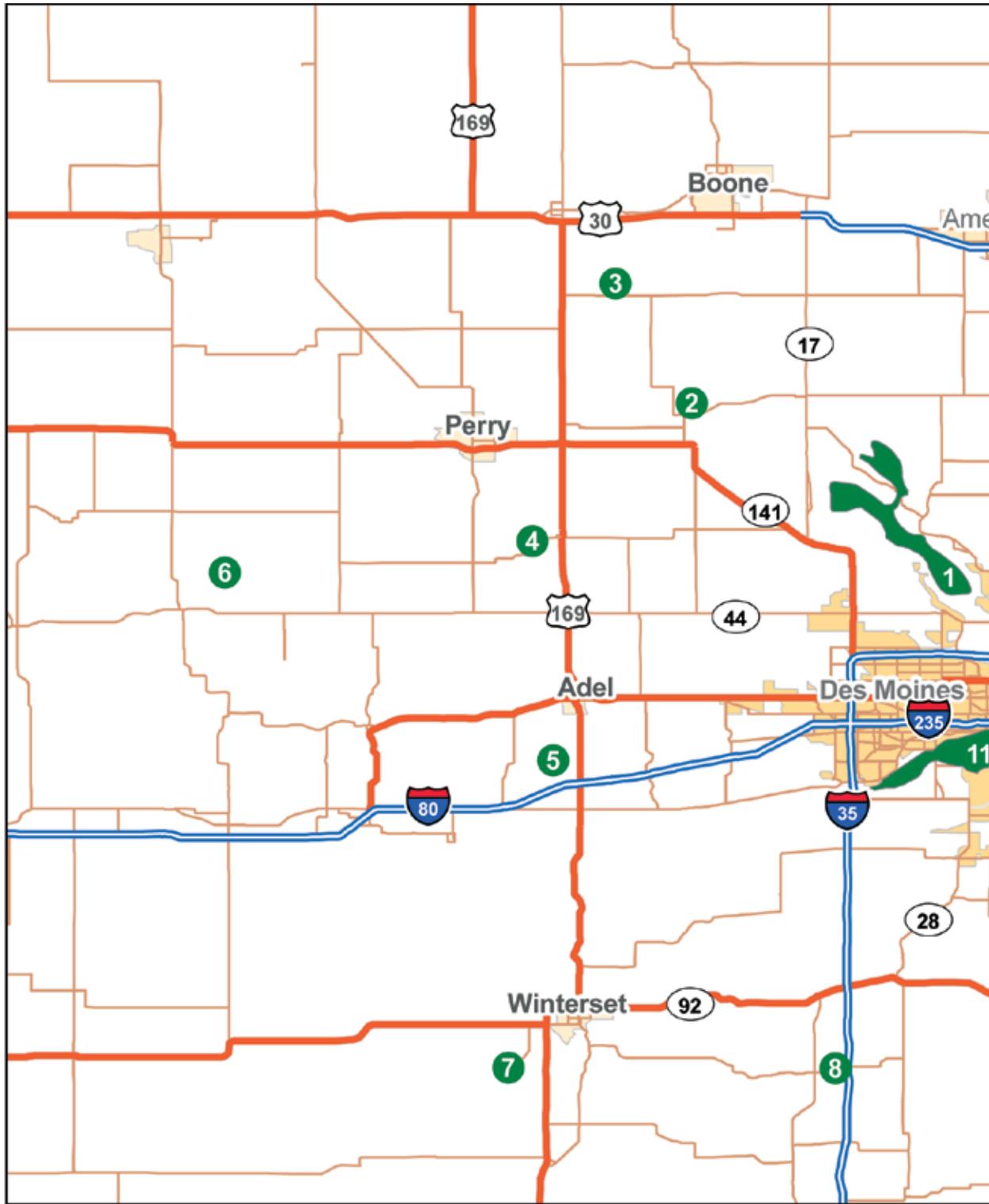
Photo by Carl Kurtz
Photo by Doug Harr
Photo by Jay Gilliam



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	SITE NUMBER		
4-5		Vicinity Map	
6-7	1	Saylorville/Big Creek/Jester Park	
8	2	Ledges State Park	
9	3	Harrier Marsh	
10	4	Voas Nature Area	
10	5	Kuehn Conservation Area	
11	6	Bays Branch Wildlife Area	
12	7	Pammel State Park	
13	8	Jensen Marsh	
14	9	Lake Ahquabi State Park	
15	10	Summerset State Park/Middle River	
16	11	Walnut Woods/Brown's Woods/DM WaterWorks	
17	12	Yellow Banks Park	
18-19	13	Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge	3
20-21	14	Red Rock/Runnells/South River	
22	15	South Skunk Wildlife Area	
23	16	Errington Marsh	
24-25	17	Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt	
26	18	Hendrickson Marsh	
27	19	Colo Bog	
28	20	Ada Hayden Heritage Park	
29	21	Brookside Park	
29	22	McFarland Park	
30-31		Bird List	

VICINITY MAP



Birding Trail Locations

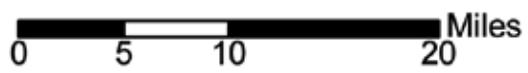
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1 Saylorville/Big Creek/Jester Park | 9 Lake Ahquabi State Park | 16 Err... |
| 2 Ledges State Park | 10 Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park | 17 Chi... |
| 3 Harrier Marsh | 11 Walnut Woods/Brown's Woods/DM Waterworks | 18 Her... |
| 4 Voas Nature Area | 12 Yellow Banks Park | 19 Col... |
| 5 Kuehn Conservation Area | 13 Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge | 20 Ada... |
| 6 Bays Branch Wildlife Area | 14 Red Rock/Runnells/South River | 21 Bro... |
| 7 Pammel State Park | 15 South Skunk Wildlife Area | 22 Mc... |
| 8 Jensen Marsh | | |

VICINITY MAP



ington Marsh
 ichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
 ndrickson Marsh
 o Bog
 a Hayden Heritage Park
 okside Park
 Farland Park

"This map is provided for your convenience.
 While every reasonable effort has been made
 to ensure accuracy, the US Army Corps of
 Engineers does not guarantee the content of
 this map. Contact your local Corps project
 office for more detailed information."



Location Map



1 SAYLORVILLE/BIG CREEK/JESTER PARK



American White Pelicans

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Osprey

Photo by Ty Smedes



Common Loon

Photo by Reid Allen



Song Sparrow

Photo by Carl Kurtz

CONTACT:

**US Army Corps of Engineers
Saylorville Lake**
5600 NW 78th Ave.
Johnston, IA 50131
515-276-4656
[www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/
saylorville/index.cfm](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/saylorville/index.cfm)

Big Creek State Park
12397 NW 89th Court
Polk City, IA 50226
515-984-6473
www.iowadnr.com

Jester Park
11407 NW Jester Park Drive
Granger, IA 50109
515-323-5300
www.leadingyououtdoors.org

HABITAT: Reservoir, forested corridor, grasslands.

HABITAT/FEATURES: Listed as a globally significant bird area by the American Bird Conservancy, this 26,000 acre project provides outstanding birding opportunities on a variety of habitat types. Large concentrations of water birds are attracted to the 6,000 acre reservoir during spring and fall migrations.

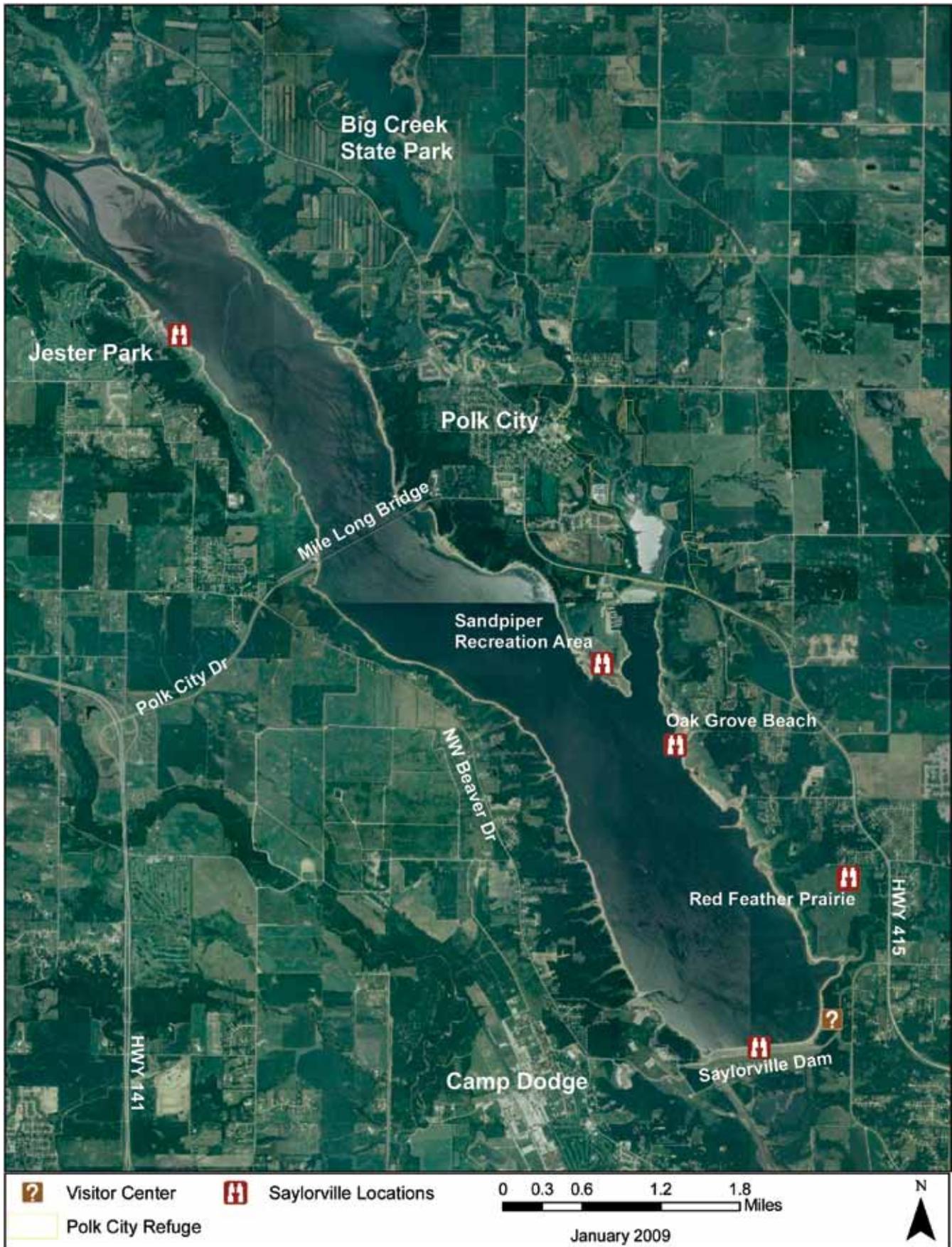
BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: American White Pelican (Aug through Sept), resident Osprey, Franklins Gull, shorebirds, waterfowl (mudflat complex near Jester Park). Bird Big Creek and Red Feather Prairie for grassland species. Riparian species can be found downstream of the dam or at the Polk City Refuge. Migrating warblers and woodland species in and around parks embedded in the oak ridges lining the reservoir.

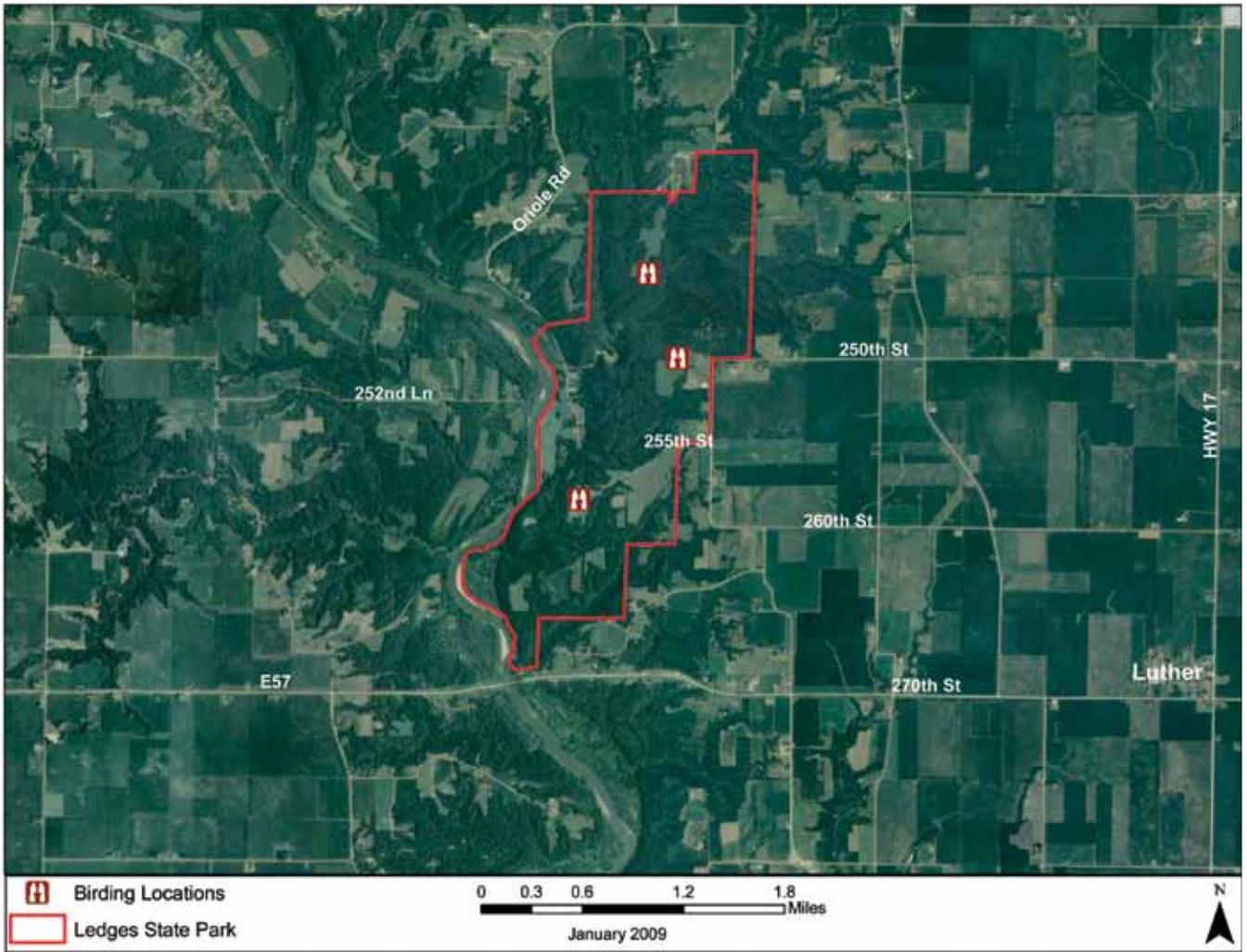
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The reservoir is drawn down slightly after the 4th of July creating ideal habitat for early migrant shorebirds near Jester Park (400 acre mudflat complex). 3,000-8,000 Pelicans stage here also beginning in August and peaking around Labor Day. Late October and November draw significant numbers of Waterfowl and Gulls to the area. Larger tract grasslands and a diversity of woodlands allow for many number of species to be located in a single birding outing. Guides and checklists are available at the Visitors Center and Administration Building. The bike trail is a good access to birds, as it traverses a wide variety of native habitats as it winds along the east side of the project (26 miles paved). Saylorville is particularly known for attracting rare stragglers or visitors to Iowa. Enjoy!

HOW TO GET TO THE AREA: From I35/80 go north on Highway 141. From 141 exit on Polk City Dr/Highway 415 to Saylorville Lake.

1 SAYLORVILLE/BIG CREEK/JESTER PARK



2 LEDGES STATE PARK



8

THE MAKOKÉ TRAIL



Yellow-throated Vireo

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Cape May Warbler

Photo by Jay Gilliam

HABITAT/FEATURES: 1,200 acres of forest amidst sandstone cliffs overlooking two creeks and the Des Moines River make this a unique habitat for a wide variety of birds and a host of other wildlife and native plant communities. Upland oak and riparian woodlands, open woodlands, and prairie remnants and restorations are all found in this park.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Bald Eagle; Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks; Pileated Woodpecker; Acadian and Least Flycatchers; Veery; Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Kentucky, and Prothonotary Warblers; Louisiana Waterthrush; Scarlet and Summer Tanagers; and Eastern Meadowlark.

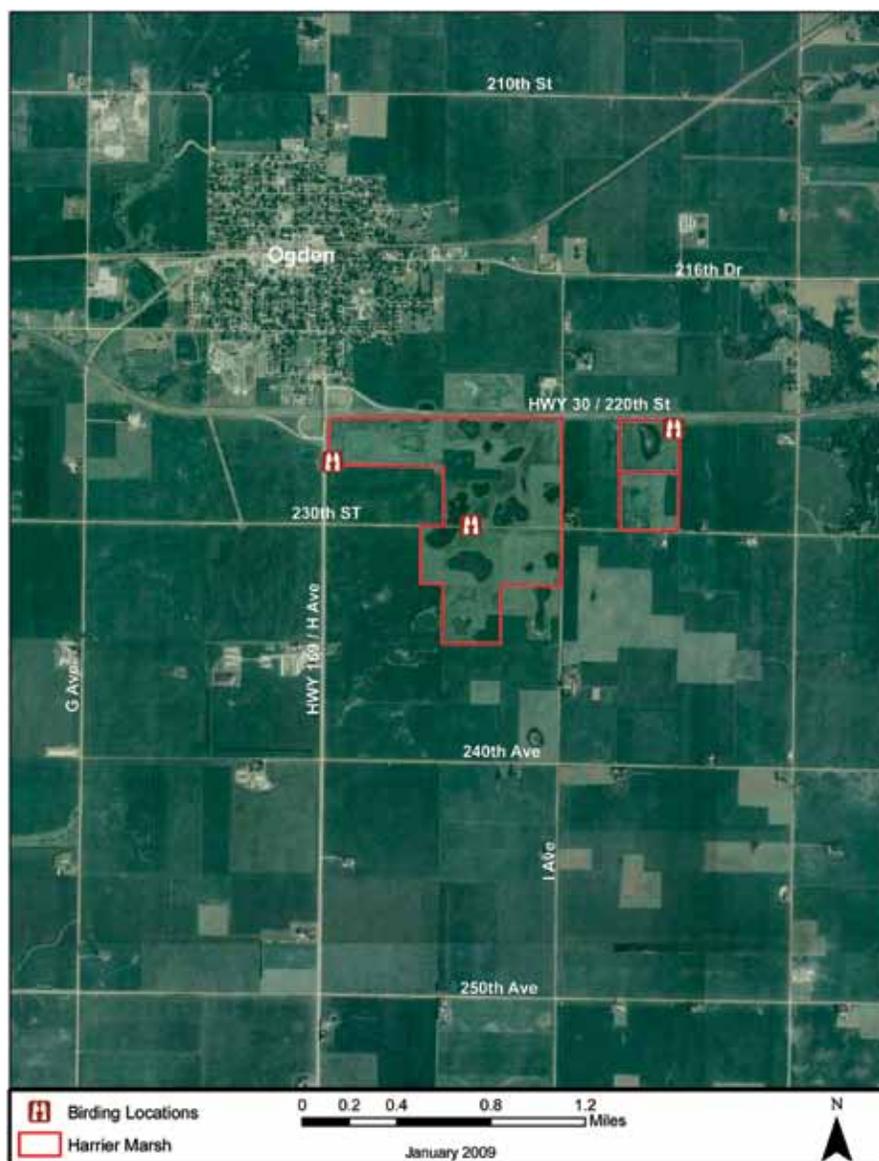
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: This grand park features hiking trails, a campground, shelters, and picnic areas and is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The winding road along Pease Creek offers motorists breathtaking views of the “canyon” and the Des Moines River Valley. Camping sites and shelters are available by reservation. Over 200 bird species have been recorded in the park, with about 100 species during the nesting season. At the south end of the park, nesting Wood Thrushes, White-eyed Vireos, and Blue-winged Warblers can be found along Lost Lake Trail. The migration of warblers, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes and other passerines is best in the lower canyon during May and September. Approximately 100 species of birds have been found here in one day during early May.

CONTACT:

IA DNR – Ledges State Park
1515 P. Ave.
Madrid, IA 50156
515-432-1852

ledges@dnr.iowa.gov OR
www.iowadnr.com/parks/state_park_list/ledges

3 HARRIER MARSH WILDLIFE AREA



Northern Harrier

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Northern Pintail

Photo by Reid Allen

CONTACT:

Iowa DNR
Boone Wildlife Research Station
1436-255th Street
Boone, IA 50036
515-432-2823

HABITAT/FEATURES: This combination of state Wildlife Management Area and Federal Waterfowl Production area encompasses 586 acres of restored prairie pothole wetlands and surrounding restored native grasslands, providing some of the best habitat for grassland and wetland birds in Boone County.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Eared Grebe, American Bittern, dabbling ducks of all kinds during migration; Gray Partridge; Northern Harrier; Sora; Upland Sandpiper; Dowitchers; Sedge and Marsh Wrens; Swamp Sparrow and most grassland sparrows; Dickcissel; Bobolink; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Great-tailed Grackle; Rusty Blackbird. Rough-legged Hawks are frequent winter visitors.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The complex is surrounded by highways and generally well-maintained gravel roads, with parking areas at multiple entry points. Terrain is relatively flat and easy to walk, except through denser grassland vegetation. Many wetland and grassland species can be readily viewed or heard from a vehicle on the central east-west road (230th Street). Eurasian-collared Doves are a bonus species usually seen near the convenience store in nearby Ogden, just across U.S. Highway 30 northwest of Harrier Marsh. A more detailed map of the complex may be viewed at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/wmamaps/harriermarsh.pdf>.

4 VOAS NATURE AREA



HABITAT/FEATURES: This 372-acre conservation area contains a 250-acre complex of reconstructed prairie and wetlands. It also has a nice oak/hickory woodland that adjoins and overlooks the North Raccoon River. Forty percent of the native wildlife habitat has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the USDA-NRCS. It is owned and managed by Dallas County Conservation Board.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: An excellent location to find migrating passerines. American and Least Bitterns, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, Sora, Black Terns, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds have all been documented in the wetlands. The prairie and woodland edges are excellent for sparrows. Migrating raptors following the river corridor are easily viewed.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: 199 species have been documented at this location. Voas Nature Area is located 1-1/2 miles west of Minburn off County Rd. F31. There are 4-5 miles of hiking trails that wind through all of the habitat types. There is a nice visitor's center on site. Contact Dallas County Conservation Board for Voas Museum hours. Otherwise, the area is open daily from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 10:00 p.m.

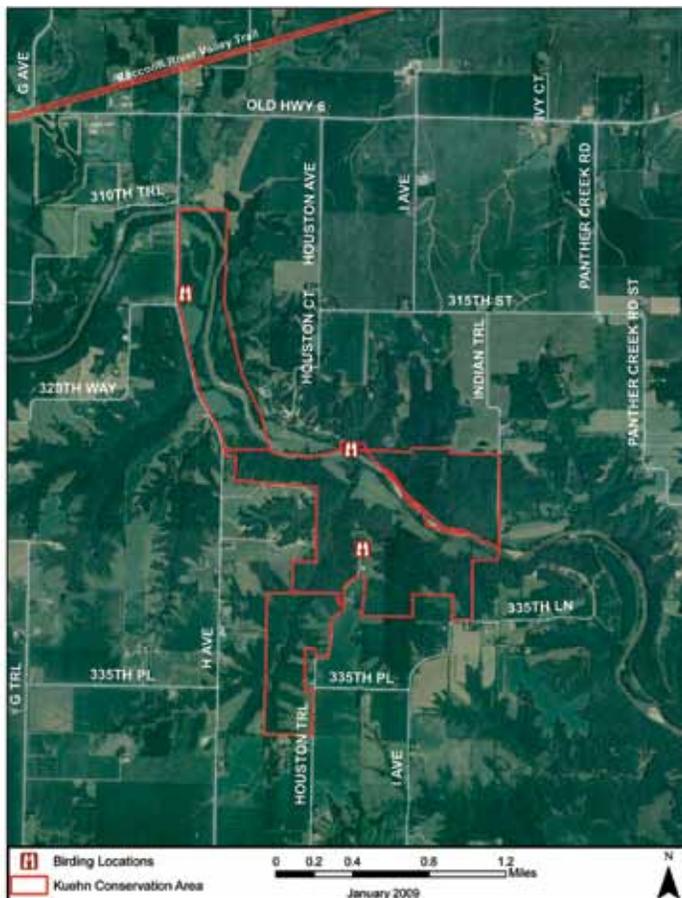
BEST TIMES TO VISIT:
Mid-March through Mid-November

CONTACT:
Dallas County Conservation Board
14581 K Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
515-465-3577
www.co.dallas.ia.us
dallascocons@iowatelecom.net

10

THE MAKOKE TRAIL

5 KUEHN CONSERVATION AREA



HABITAT/FEATURES: Managed by Dallas County Conservation Board, this 610-acre area contains remnant and reconstructed prairie, riparian and upland forest, and unique geologic features next to the South Raccoon River.

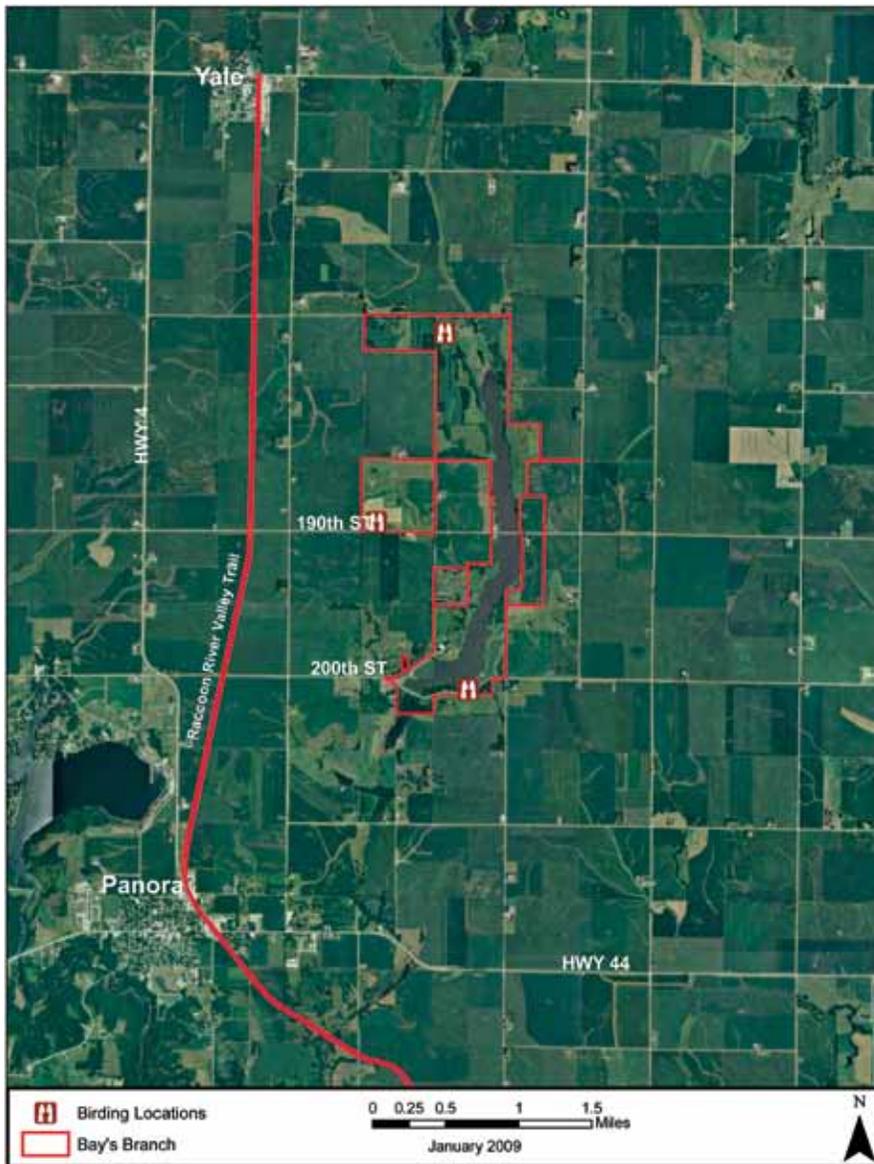
BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Good location for migrating passerines including sparrows, warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Bobolink, Eastern Bluebirds, meadowlarks, Dickcissel, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting, and by the river look for Belted Kingfisher. Listen for owls at dusk.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Located 5-1/2 miles north of Earlham, Kuehn Conservation Area is a well kept secret in Central Iowa. Park at the Bear Creek Nature Center, and walk the trails through the area to explore all of the habitats available. The nature center is open by appointment only. Primitive camping is available. A bird blind is on site for viewing feeder birds.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:
Mid-March through Mid-November

CONTACT:
Dallas County Conservation Board
14581 K Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
515-465-3577
www.co.dallas.ia.us
dallascocons@iowatelecom.net

6 BAYS BRANCH WILDLIFE AREA



Greater Yellowlegs

Photo by Dick Stilwell



Redhead

Photo by Jay Gilliam

CONTACT:

Bays Branch Wildlife Unit
3123-200th Street
Panora, IA 50216
641-755-2313

HABITAT/FEATURES: This well-known, 990-acre wildlife area northeast of Panora features a narrow, 2.5 mile-long reservoir surrounded by grassy uplands, small wetlands and small wooded patches.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: Late April-June and September-November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Snow Goose, all migratory and breeding ducks common to Iowa, American Coot, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Western Meadowlark.

NOTES FOR BIRDING AREA: It is widely recognized as an excellent place to see most species of waterfowl and other waterbirds, especially in spring and fall migrations. Northern and western parts of the complex are best for marsh birds and grassland birds. The main reservoir is good for viewing migrating waterfowl, especially from the parking areas near the southeast and southwest corners of the lake, near the dam. This southern end of the impoundment is a designated waterfowl refuge during the fall hunting season. Information about current waterfowl use and the best places to view migrations can be obtained from the wildlife area headquarters, located north of 200th Street on the area's southwest side. A more detailed map may be viewed at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/wmmaps/baysbranch.pdf>.

7 PAMMEL STATE PARK



Broad-winged Hawk

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Eastern Bluebird

Photo by Carl Kurtz

CONTACT:

Madison County
Conservation Board
P.O. Box 129
Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-3536

www.madisoncountyparks.org
madccb@madisoncountyiowaparks.org



HABITAT/FEATURES: 351 acres of oak woodlands and savanna atop limestone ridges overlooking the meandering Middle River make this a unique habitat for a wide variety of birds and a host of other wildlife and plants. Includes prairie remnants and restorations.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: American Woodcock; Bald Eagles in March and November; Broad-winged Hawk; Wild Turkey; Whip-poor-will; Red-headed Woodpecker; Eastern Bluebird; Wood Thrush; Scarlet and Summer Tanagers; Yellow-throated Vireo, Northern Parula; and Ovenbird.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: This park features hiking trails, a Nature Center, a campground, and camper cabins and is managed by the Madison County Conservation Board. The widest variety of birds can be found by walking trails along the river, especially during migration time in early May and late August–early September. Camping sites and shelters are available by reservation. Over 70 bird species nest here; another 100+ species migrate through the park. For details on additional birding sites in Madison County, contact the Madison County Conservation Board.



HABITAT/FEATURES: Marsh, wet prairie; natural and restored wetlands; adjacent restored tall grass prairie and upland timber. Most of this 190-acre native wildlife habitat has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the USDA-NRCS. It is owned and managed by Madison County Conservation Board

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through June; late August through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers; Dunlin; Rusty Blackbird; Green Heron; Black-crowned Night-Heron; Northern Pintail; Wood Duck; Rough-legged Hawk.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: There are over 90 acres of wetland habitat. Walk-in access provided by an abandoned railroad bed with a well maintained gravel surface trail that parallels the entire south edge of the marsh with good parking areas on both east and west sides. It is an easy short walk to good birding.

CONTACT:

Madison County Conservation Board
 P.O. Box 129
 Winterset, IA 50273
 515-462-3536
www.madisoncountyparks.org
madccb@madisoncountyparks.org



Photo by Madison County Conservation Board



Photo by Madison County Conservation Board



Least Sandpipers

Photo by Dick Stilwell

9 LAKE AHQUABI STATE PARK



Scarlet Tanager

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Great-crested Flycatcher

Photo by Jay Gilliam

CONTACT:

Lake Ahquabi State Park
1650 118th Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-7101

Warren County Conservation Board
Annett Nature Center
15565 118th Ave.
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-9169
www.warrencb.org



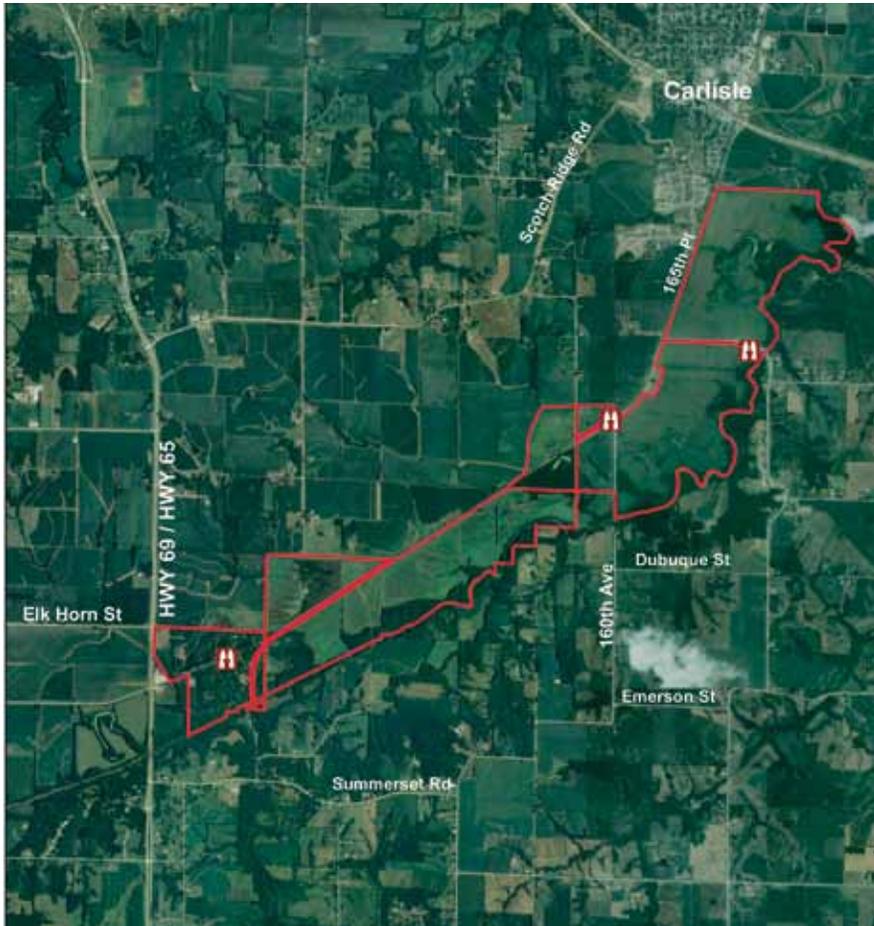
HABITAT/FEATURES: A 115-acre man-made lake is surrounded by upland forest and grasslands totaling 770 acres. Attached to the south is the Hooper Wildlife Area which offers similar habitat and another smaller lake. Both of these areas are managed by the Iowa DNR. The Annett Nature Center and adjacent wetlands and grasslands are an additional part of this area. The nature center is owned and operated by Warren County Conservation Board.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through November

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Migrating songbirds and waterfowl including Common Loon, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Belted Kingfisher, woodpeckers, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles; wintering Northern Saw-whet Owls have been found in Hooper Wildlife Area and good viewing of feeder birds at Annett Nature Center.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: This popular park is just 6 miles south of Indianola and 22 miles south of Des Moines. There is a gravel-surfaced trail that goes around the entire lake with several other trails extending into the surrounding areas. A modern boat ramp is available as well as a campground with modern restrooms and showers. The park gets its name from the Sauk and Fox term for "resting place." The Annett Nature Center offers wildlife exhibits and many environmental education programs. For more information or to download maps of the area, visit www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/lake_ahquabi.html.

10 BANNER LAKES AT SUMMERSET STATE PARK & MIDDLE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Wood Ducks

Photo by Carl Kurtz

CONTACT:

Iowa DNR
1650 118th Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-7101

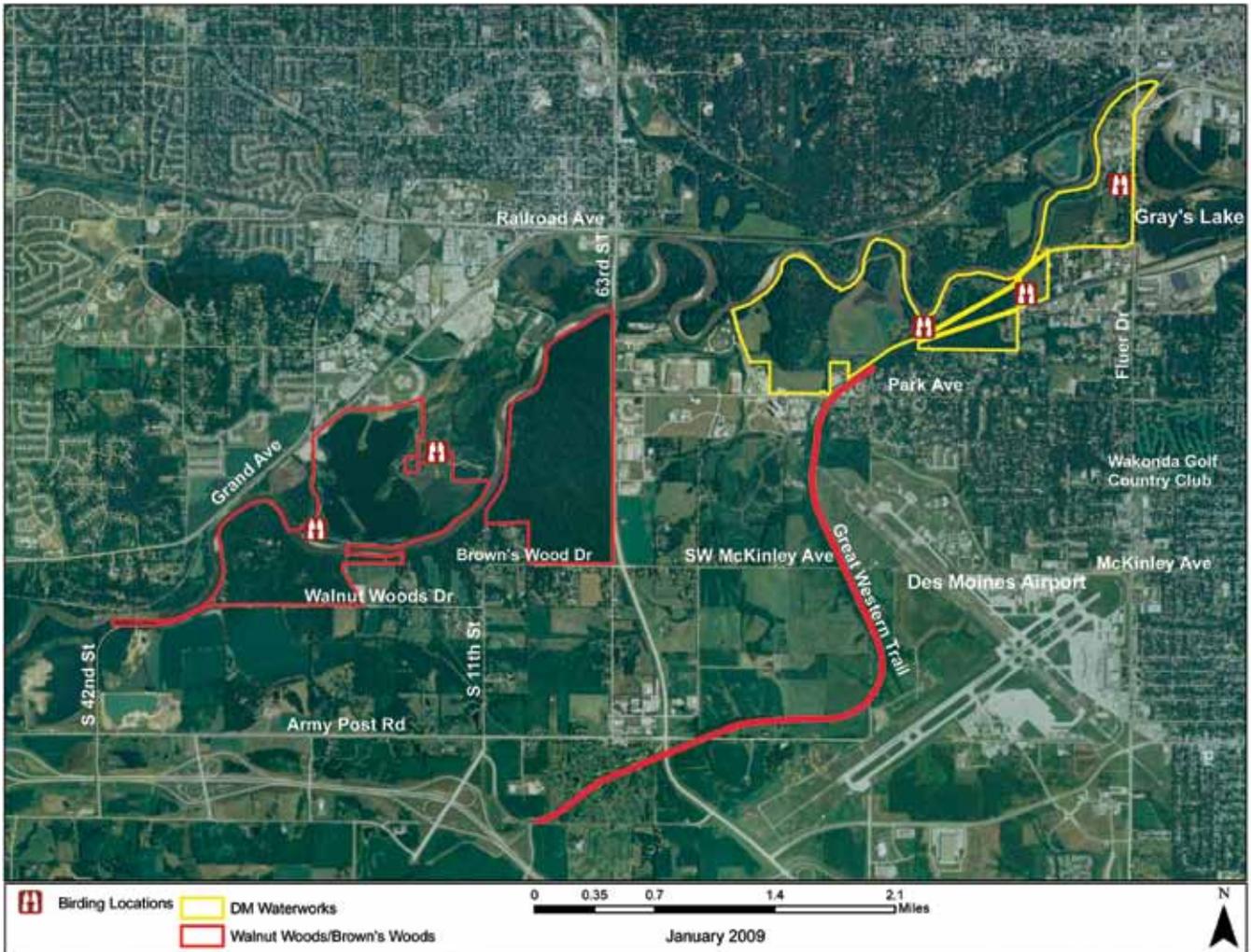
HABITAT/FEATURES: Banner Lakes, at Summerset State Park near US 65/69, is comprised of water-filled former coal mine strip pits, surrounded by brush and second-growth forest. Middle River Wildlife Management Area (MRWMA) area runs parallel to the Middle River and features expansive grasslands, restored wetlands, and a wooded riparian corridor. Such variety in habitats results in a very diverse bird community. Much of the native habitat is in the MRWMA and has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program (USDA-NRCS).

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron (rookery), Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Carolina Wren, Lark Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole. Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls are winter visitors.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: 195 species have been documented. Stretching from US Highway 65/69 north of Indianola nearly 6 miles northeast to Carlisle, this excellent metro-area habitat combines a state park and adjacent wildlife area. A hard-surfaced hiking/biking trail traverses the entire length of this approximately 1,400-acre complex, and the level terrain makes for some of the easiest bird hikes in the region. Hard-surfaced roads and trails encircle the Banner Lakes, allowing easy access to both the ponds and associated woodlands. Restored marshy wetlands are situated just north and east of the park on the MRWMA, with the paved Summerset Trail offering good viewing of wetland birds. Warren County Conservation Board, which manages the trail, also provides an elevated viewing platform near the largest wetland, a good place to use spotting scopes. Continuing northeast towards Carlisle, the trail takes birders along hundreds of acres of floodplain grasslands with more restored wetlands. Parking is afforded at multiple locations along the state park road and at a few locations along Dubuque Street and Dubuque Place (graveled roads) paralleling the wildlife area's north boundary and trail.

11 WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK/BROWN'S WOODS/WATERWORKS PARK



16

THE MAKOKÉ TRAIL



Eastern Towhee

Photo by Jay Gilliam

CONTACT:

Walnut Woods State Park
3155 Walnut Woods Dr
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-285-4502
www.iowadnr.com/parks/state_park_list/walnut_woods.html

Brown's Woods
SW 63rd St & Browns Wood Dr
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-323-5300
www.leadingyououtdoors.org

Des Moines Waterworks Park
2201 George Flagg Parkway
Des Moines, IA 50321
515-283-8700
www.dmww.com

HABITAT/FEATURES: This is an urban complex of parks that stretches along the Raccoon River in Des Moines and West Des Moines. Walnut Woods State Park is a 260-acre bottomland park right next to the river. It has riparian woods and a large, native stand of black walnut trees. Brown's Woods is a 480-acre preserve that contains riparian and upland forest. Des Moines Waterworks Park is a 1,500-acre park with open wooded land.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: This river corridor is great for migrating passerines. Also, Brown Creeper, Carolina and Winter Wren, woodpeckers, owls and other raptors including Broad-winged Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and wintering Bald Eagles. Wood Thrush has nested in Brown's Woods, as well as American Redstart. There is a nice bird feeding station at Walnut Woods.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The flat, paved roads in Walnut Woods offer easy walking and good viewing. Trails into the woods and scrubland near the river are also easily accessible. Camping is available at Walnut Woods as well as a boat ramp.

Brown's Woods only has trails into the woodland and is open sunrise to sunset daily. A well maintained 2-mile loop gives good access to the area.

Waterworks Park has roadways and trails for birders' use. One of the nicest crabapple arboreturns in the nation is also found in this park. Ashworth and Greenwood Parks are adjacent to Waterworks and can be accessed by the Bill Riley Trail that starts in Waterworks. These two parks transition from riparian woodlands to upland oak/hickory woodlands. Also nearby is Grays Lake Park that has a 2-mile, paved trail around it.

12 YELLOW BANKS COUNTY PARK



Black-capped Chickadee

Photo by Carl Kurtz



Red-eyed Vireo

Photo by Carl Kurtz

CONTACT:

Yellow Banks Park
6801 SE 32 Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50317
515-266-1563
www.leadingyououtdoors.org

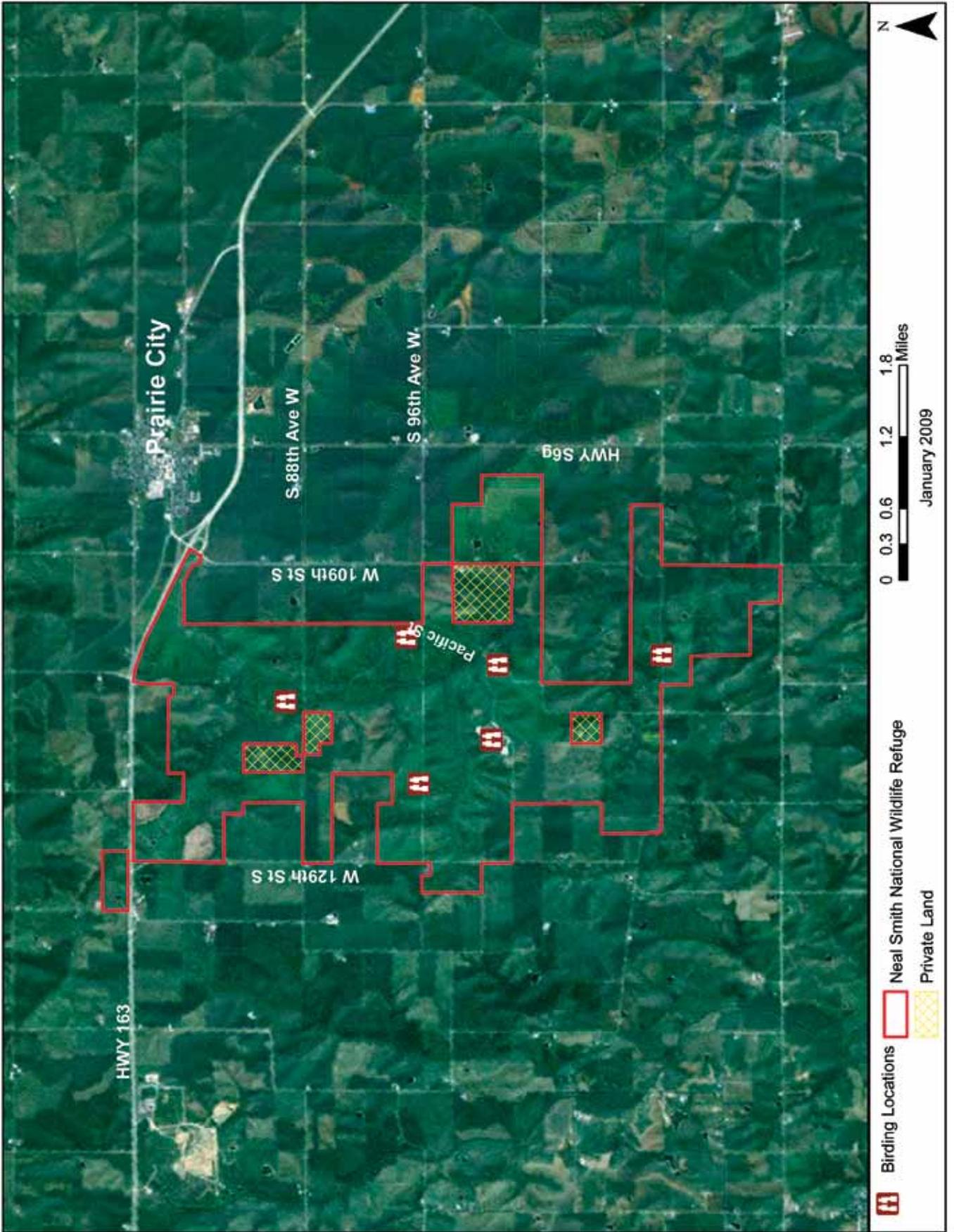
HABITAT/FEATURES: Mostly oak/hickory woodland, Yellow Banks Park sits atop 150 ft. bluffs overlooking the Des Moines River Valley. Open parkland with restored oak savanna and small prairie reconstructions.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Excellent for spring and fall migrating songbirds. Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Eastern Bluebirds, migrating raptors, wintering Bald Eagles, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and occasional Black-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Buntings, vireos and flycatchers including Great-crested Flycatcher.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The 517-acre park managed by Polk County Conservation offers great views of migrating raptors in spring and fall. Hiking trails and roadways offer easy access to good habitat throughout the park. Camping is available, and open shelters are available to rent by reservation. A map of the park is available to download at www.leadingyououtdoors.org.

13 NEAL SMITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



13 NEAL SMITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Photo by US Fish and Wildlife Service



Henslow's Sparrow

Photo by Jim Durbin

HABITAT FEATURES: This tallgrass prairie and oak savanna restoration and reconstruction site provides habitat for over 200 bird species and other wildlife on over 5,600 acres. With Chichaqua Bottoms, Neal Smith NWR is a Grassland Bird Conservation Area. This area is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through November

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Sparrows include eight nesting species, featuring Henslow's and Grasshopper. Other nesting grassland birds include Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Horned Lark, and Dickcissel. Oak savanna and shrub-scrub species include Bell's Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Towhee, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Wintering species include Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, and Lapland Longspur. During migration up to 11 additional sparrow species can be found.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Prairie Learning Center features world-class exhibits and gift shop. Wildflowers and prairie views are other highlights of visits to Neal Smith. Bird checklist, general brochure, refuge map, and current information available at the Prairie Learning Center, which is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday year-round (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day). Trails and wildlife drive open sunrise to sunset. Wildlife drive (4.5 miles), open year-round, takes visitors through a 700-acre fenced area with bison and elk herds. Tallgrass Trail, 2 miles long, and Overlook Trail, ½ mile long, both beginning at the Prairie Learning Center, are wheelchair accessible and provide grassland bird viewing. One-half mile long Savanna Trail is also well maintained and is good for savanna and woodland species. Inquire about other trails. There is also excellent wildlife viewing from several roads and pullouts on the refuge.



Red-headed Woodpecker

Photo by Carl Kurtz

CONTACT:

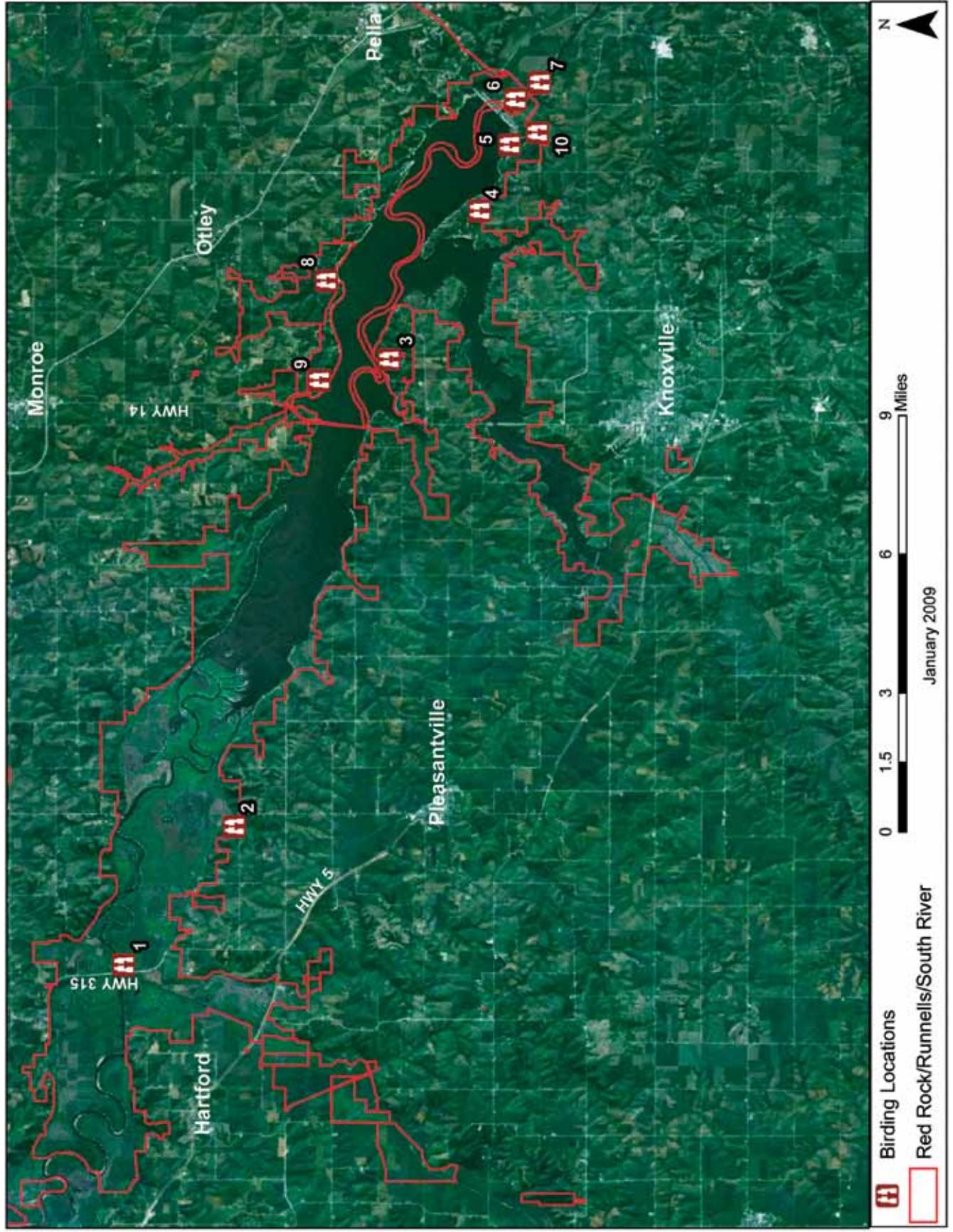
Neal Smith NWR
P.O. Box 399, 9981 Pacific Street
Prairie City, IA 50228
515-994-3400.
<http://midwest.fws.gov/nealsmith>

Friends of the Prairie Learning Center:
www.tallgrass.org
nealsmith@fws.gov

14 RED ROCK/RUNNELLS/SOUTH RIVER

20

THE MAKOKE TRAIL



14 RED ROCK/RUNNELLS/SOUTH RIVER

HABITAT: Reservoir, forested corridor, natural and man-made wetland impoundments, native and re-established prairies, old fields, recreation areas, some leased cropland.

HABITAT/FEATURES: Lake Red Rock Project is a flood control reservoir that is the largest contiguous public land mass in Iowa and encompasses 52,807 acres. The conservation pool of the lake is 15, 253 acres, making it Iowa's largest lake, with the maximum flood pool to 65,500 acres. Lake Red Rock is managed by multiple agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) (Wildlife Bureau, Parks and Preserves), and Marion County Conservation Board. Project management areas include the Red Rock Wildlife Unit (IDNR), Elk Rock State Park (IDNR), eleven COE recreation areas, Roberts Creek and Cordova County Parks (MCCB). Virtually all major habitat types can be found here. Over 300 bird species have been recorded. Red Rock is listed as an Important Bird Area by Iowa Audubon Society and as a Globally Significant Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: Best times to visit dependant upon species sought and lake levels.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: March through April, and September through November are excellent for ducks and other waterfowl, with total number peaking at about 100,000. April through May and August through September are ideal for migrating warblers. Other migrating passerines arrive as early as late February-early March, and linger as late as November. Thousands of gulls quickly move through during March to early May. Several thousand gulls and comparatively fewer shorebirds congregate at the reservoir in late summer in preparation for fall migration, which trails off in November. Huge flocks of pelicans peak in September, with a few individuals hanging on into December. Pelicans return in large numbers again from March through early May. Late fall and winter months are outstanding for Bald Eagles. Summer nesters and year-round residents can be predictably found throughout the area's forests and grasslands.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: As a flood control reservoir, ideal viewing locations for birds may vary seasonally or with lake elevations. In addition, the DNR floods impoundments near Swan, Iowa in the fall, providing outstanding wetland habitat for migrating waterfowl and other water loving birds.

1. Swan Overlook – Located by state highway 316 northwest of Swan, it is also popularly referred to as the Runnells Overlook (Runnells is located on opposite side of the river). Birding success here is relative to the season and the lake's variable level. However, under ideal conditions, the Swan Overlook is great for fall shorebirds; post breeding egret roost; huge pelican flocks and spectacular numbers of fall waterfowl. It is also ideal for catching a glimpse of migrating Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and Northern Harriers.
2. Pinchey Bottoms – Located about three miles north of Pleasantville on 40th Avenue, it is perhaps the best shorebird area in Iowa. The access also provides a boat ramp.
3. South Elk Rock – Arguably the best location to observe breeding forest birds, such as Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, Red-headed Woodpeckers and Bell's Vireo. It is also the site of the Lake Red Rock Osprey Restoration Project and hack tower.
4. Whitebreast Recreation Area – Check out Whitebreast Point (a peninsula) for waterfowl and loons. The adjacent Point woodlands and Stu Kuyper Trails, located east of WRA entrance by group camp, are good for migrating passerines. Gulls and terns congregate at the old beach and other shore locations. Occasionally, wintering Long-eared and Saw Whet Owls can be found in pine groves.
5. South Overlook – The picnic area offers an outstanding vista of the lake and is a great area to scope waterbirds and roosting gull flocks. The Visitor Center has a deck overlooking the lake with an observation scope that is also ideal for viewing birds on the water.
6. North and South Tailwater Areas – The tailwater below the dam is excellent for late fall and early winter gulls (sixteen species recorded), lingering pelicans, cormorants, wintering bald eagles and waterfowl. An enclosed viewing blind is located along the paved Volksweg Trail and overlooks old river channel. The wooded bluffs and oxbow-like habitat of the old channel immediately downstream are excellent for spring warblers, and migrating waterfowl.
7. Old Horns Ferry Bridge –The Old Horns Ferry Bridge, located downstream from the tailwater, is now closed to vehicle traffic, but provides a perfect area to view Bald Eagles, waterfowl and cormorants.
8. Roberts Creek Causeway – Located on the north side of the lake, the causeway is a feature of county highway G-28 where it crosses the Robert's Creek bay. This area provides a vantage point for watching waterfowl, loons and gulls on either the lake side, or Robert's Creek bay.
9. Cordova Park – The Karr Nature Trail is a north shore companion to South Elk Rock's birding experience. Check out the 106 foot Cordova Observation Tower for a bird's eye view of the lake and area landscape. The observation tower is built around a former water tower.
10. Lake Red Rock brochures and maps can be obtained at the Visitor Center and Office, located at the south end of the dam. The map is useful for locating the forty remote access roads to Red Rock's public lands, waters and boat ramps.
11. South River Wildlife Area: Located South of Hartford off of Highway 5 there are more than 1600 acres of habitat. Best time to visit this area is from March to November. This is a great location for songbirds and waterfowl, not to mention the breeding and nesting birds using the prairies, woodlands and wetlands.



Bald Eagle

Photo by Carl Kurtz



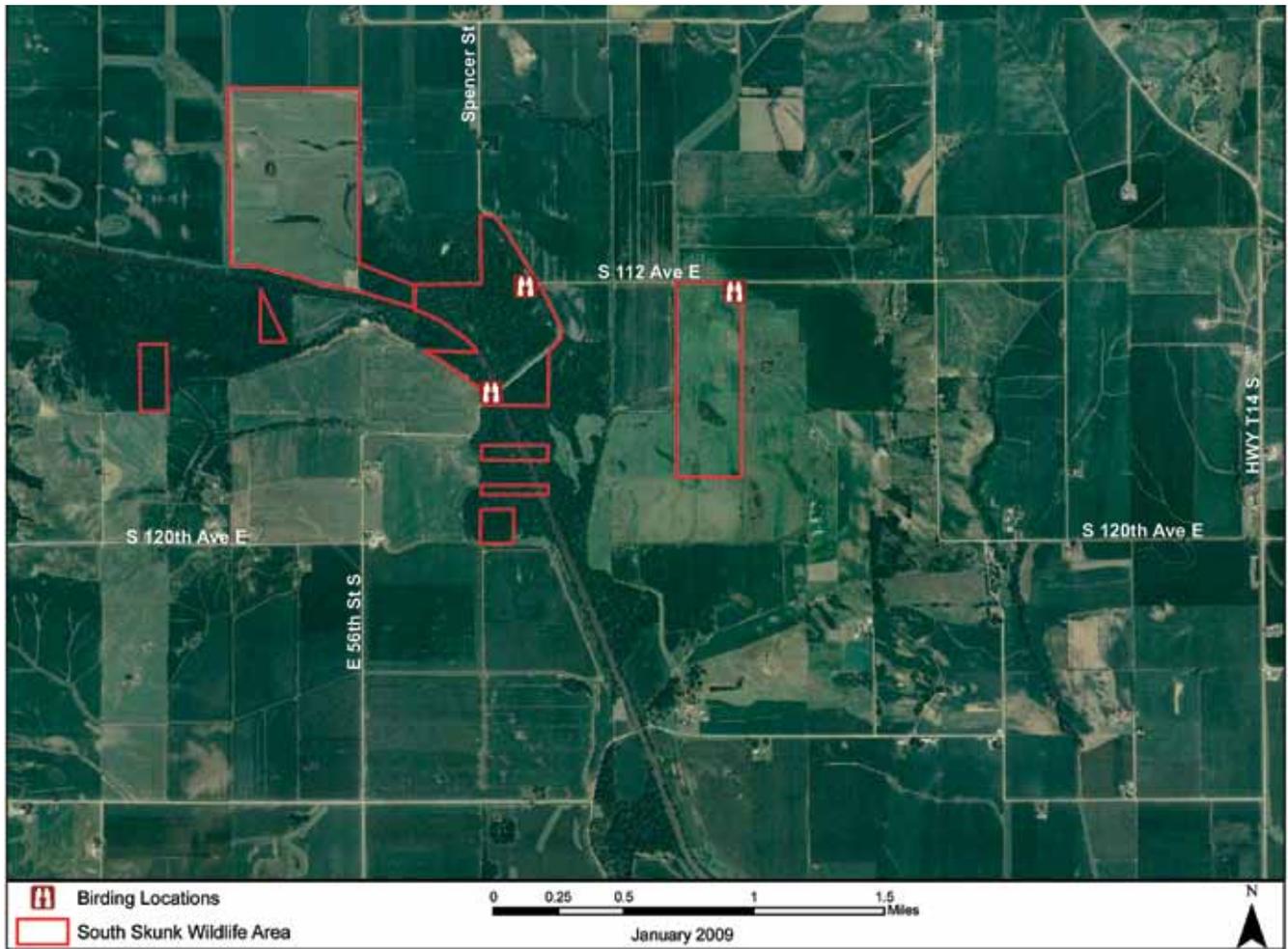
Willet

Photo by Reid Allen

CONTACT:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lake Red Rock Project**
1105 Highway T-15
Knoxville, Iowa 50138-8820
641-828-7522
www.lakeredrock.org

15 SOUTH SKUNK WILDLIFE AREA



LeConte's Sparrow

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Barred Owl

Photo by Jay Gilliam

HABITAT/FEATURES: Native prairie remnant (Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie); restored prairies; riparian and oak/hickory woodlands; river; and natural and restored wetlands. 60% of the native habitat has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the USDA-NRCS. It is owned and managed by Jasper County Conservation Board. Total public wildlife area is 610 acres.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: To date, 209 bird species have been documented in this wildlife area which demonstrates the diversity of wildlife habitat found here. This is a great area for migrating songbirds and waterfowl, not to mention the breeding and nesting birds using the prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Birds to look for include: Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow, and Bobolink.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Some designated parking areas but no established trails. This area caters to a birder wishing to experience the wilder side of Iowa. There is a nearby river access for exploration and wildlife viewing on the South Skunk River. In this area also is the Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie, a 16-acre state prairie preserve located 0.5 mile southeast of Reasnor. It contains a remnant sand prairie that mantles an unusual upland projection into the South Skunk River valley. The sand was blown out of the river valley about 4,000 years ago. The preserve was named in honor of a chief of the Fox tribe who lived in the area in the mid-1880s. Big and little bluestem, Indian grass, and prairie dropseed dominate the prairie, with various forbs, including sand puccoon, marbleseed, prairie larkspur, and vast blooms of rough blazing star.

CONTACT:

Jasper County Conservation Board
 115 North 2nd Ave. E.
 Newton, IA 50208
 641-792-9780
www.jaspercountyconservation.com
 E-mail: conservation@co.jasper.ia.us

16 PAUL ERRINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE AREA



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Common Yellowthroat

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Pied-billed Grebe

Photo by Reid Allen

CONTACT:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Research Station
1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036
515-432-2823

HABITAT/FEATURES: This 312-acre public wildlife area is located just south of Elkhart and contains a variety of habitats that makes it attractive to at least 170 migrant and nesting bird species. The area includes about 12 pothole marshes surrounded by restored prairie, row-crop, hayfields, and upland grassland in a relatively flat landscape. This wildlife area is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

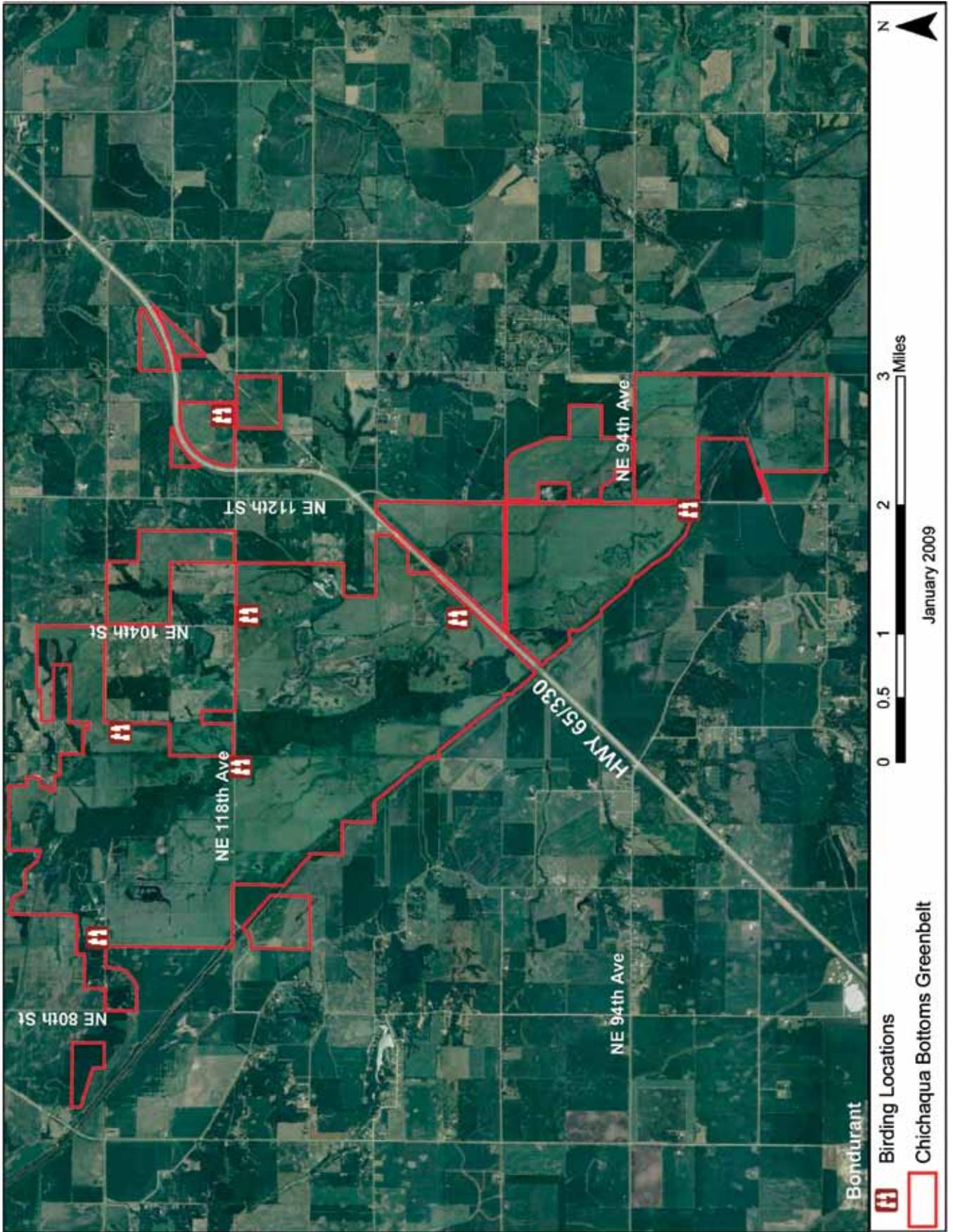
BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Great Egret; King and Virginia Rails; Sora; Pied-billed Grebe; American and Least Bitterns; many waterfowl species, especially dabblers like Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal; Northern Harrier; Short-eared and Barn Owls on occasion; most shorebirds including American Avocet; Black Tern; Sedge and Marsh wrens; most grassland sparrows including Swamp, Grasshopper, Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed; Bobolink; and Eastern Meadowlark.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: There are at least two parking lots where you can park your car and hike into the area. One parking lot is located in the southwest corner of the area and another is on the east side of the area (west side of NE 56th St.). American and Least Bitterns nest here regularly, as do Yellow-headed Blackbirds. There are plenty of vocal Soras, and King Rail young have been documented at the site. When water levels are low, many of Iowa's regular shorebirds can be found here, with best viewing in May and from July to September. In early October, keep an eye open along the edge of the marshes for Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed, as well as Lark, Swamp, Savannah, and other sparrows. This is also a good time to see migrant Northern Harriers, as well as Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks chasing passerines at the marsh.

HOW TO GET TO THE AREA: From I35 take Ankeny exit 1st Street. Go East on 1st Street and this turns to NE 94th. From here see map.

17 CHICHAQUA BOTTOMS GREENBELT



17 CHICHAQUA BOTTOMS GREENBELT



Photo by Loren Lown



Black-crowned Night Heron

Photo by Reid Allen

HABITAT/FEATURES: This 8,600-acre wildlife area along the Skunk River contains county, state, and federal lands. Managed by Polk County Conservation, it includes dry, mesic, and wet prairies, floodplain wetlands, pothole marshes, wooded oxbow wetlands, and riparian woodlands. Much of the wildlife habitat has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the NRCS (USDA).

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Tallgrass prairie and wetland birds abound; 200 species including Northern Harriers, American and Least Bitterns, both night-herons are thought to nest here, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Bobolink, Short-eared Owl, Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, 25 warblers including a nesting population of Prothonotary Warblers and 17 sparrows including nesting Grasshopper and Henslow's with Lark and Swamp Sparrows found regularly. Sedge Wrens are common, and Marsh Wrens are known to nest.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: Mid-March through Mid-November.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Stop at the area office to pick up a detailed map of the area. High water levels can limit access to some areas. Excellent area to see migrant songbirds and shorebirds. Mowed fire breaks provide good walking trails through many of the areas. Be aware of hunting seasons. Public hunting is allowed. Some areas are designated as a refuge during the fall and no access is available. Insect repellent strongly recommended in late spring and summer. Camping is available with electric hook-ups and canoes are available to rent and paddle the extensive oxbows. Maps are available to download at www.leadingyououtdoors.org.

CONTACT:

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
8700 NE 126th Ave.
Maxwell, IA 50161
515-967-2596
www.leadingyououtdoors.org



Sandhill Cranes

Photo by Jay Gilliam



Grasshopper Sparrow

Photo by Jay Gilliam

18 HENDRICKSON MARSH



American Avocet

Photo by Dick Stillwell



Green Heron

Photo by Dick Stillwell

CONTACT:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Lake Red Rock Project
 1105 Highway T-15
 Knoxville, Iowa 50138-8820
 641-828-7522
 rick.trine@dnr.ia.gov
 www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/RedRock/
 default.cfm



HABITAT/FEATURES: This 776-acre area includes a large shallow lake surrounded by a variety of upland habitats in a gently rolling landscape. About 70 bird species may nest here and another 80-100 species can be seen during migration season. This wildlife area is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: American White Pelican; American and Least Bitterns; Great Egret; most waterfowl species, including Trumpeter Swan; Northern Harrier; Osprey; Virginia Rail; most shorebirds including American Avocet and nesting Spotted Sandpiper; Black Tern; Black-billed Cuckoo; Loggerhead Shrike; Bell’s Vireo; Sedge and Marsh Wrens; many grassland sparrows including Grasshopper, LeConte’s and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed; Bobolink; and Eastern Meadowlark

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The south-central parking lot allows the best view overlooking the marsh, but use of a spotting scope is recommended. There are several parking lots where you can park your car and hike into the area. A very good wildlife viewing trail begins on the west side of the area near a bridge, and a variety of shrub and grassland species can be located before the trail ends at a pond where Blue-winged Teal and Mallards summer. March and April are typically the best months to view thousands of waterfowl, including large numbers of Snow Geese early. When water levels are low, most of Iowa’s regular shorebirds can be found here, with best viewing in May and from July to September. The best shorebird habitat usually occurs in the northwest corner of the marsh. Marshy edges are good places to find bitterns, rails, and sparrows during migration. During September and October large swallow flocks can be seen catching insects over the marsh. A more detailed map of the area can be viewed at www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/wmmaps/maps/hendrickson_marsh.pdf



Pectoral Sandpiper

Photo by Reid Allen



Rusty Blackbirds

Photo by Jay Gilliam

CONTACT:

IA DNR

1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036
515-432-2823

Story County Conservation

56461 180th St
Ames, IA 50010
515-232-2516
www.storycounty.com
Click on Conservation and Parks

HABITAT/FEATURES: This 600+ acre area of permanently protected land is located just east of Colo within a roughly three-square mile area bounded by Highway 30 on the south. It contains many shallow wetlands amidst a variety of grassland types and is a premier spot for viewing wetland wildlife. This wetland complex has been restored and protected through the Wetlands Reserve Program (USDA-NRCS), and is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Story County Conservation Board.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Great Egret; waterfowl including Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck; Northern Harrier; American and Least Bitterns; White-faced Ibis; American Avocet; Hudsonian Godwit; Common Snipe; Wilson's Phalarope; Sedge and Marsh Wrens; Bobolink; Le Conte's Sparrow, American Pipit; Rusty Blackbird.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: There is excellent viewing from several roads within and along this wildlife area, and there is a parking lot on the north side of county road E41 where you can park your car and hike into the area. During March and April, thousands of waterfowl including Snow Geese and puddle ducks are usually present. All of Iowa's regular shorebirds can be found here, with excellent diversity about mid-May. Several dabbling duck species nest here, along with bitterns and rails. Many grassland nesters can be found, including Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Bobolink. Be aware of hunting seasons. Public hunting is allowed on this land. Download area map at www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/wmmaps/colobog.pdf.

20 ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK



Great-tailed Grackle *Photo by Jay Gilliam*



Yellow Warbler *Photo by Jay Gilliam*

CONTACT:
Ames Parks and Recreation
Community Center
 515 Clark Ave.
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-239-5350



HABITAT/FEATURES: This 437-acre park, situated on the north edge of Ames, is centered around two lakes (130 acres) and contains a variety of habitats including restored prairie, wetland, woodland, and meadows.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: 31 species of waterfowl especially divers like scaup, mergansers, loons, and five Grebe species; Osprey; Bald Eagle; Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls; Caspian, Black, and Forster's Terns; American White Pelican; most herons; 25+ species of shorebirds; all swallows; seven thrushes; most warblers; most sparrows; and most blackbirds.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Over 240 migrant and nesting birds have been documented. The park features 5 miles of hiking and biking trails, most of which are hard surface, but also contains boat ramps and picnic areas. Trail maps are available at the site. Because of the deepness of the lakes, this is the best location in Story County to find deep water species such as Horned and Eared grebes, Common Goldeneye, and all three mergansers. Common Loon can often be seen here until late April. Bald Eagles especially frequent the area in March and November and can be seen perching in the larger trees along the lake shore. Numerous warbler and thrush species can be found in May and September, particularly in the wooded area at the south end of the park. Northern Harriers and sometimes Short-eared Owls can be seen hunting over the grasslands west of the lake during migration, especially during fall. Many sparrows, including Fox, Clay-colored, LeConte's, and Sharp-tailed, also can be found in this same area. Wetland areas within the grasslands can be rich in shorebird species and are frequented by many sandpiper species, both dowitchers, yellowlegs, and even an occasional godwit.

21 BROOKSIDE PARK

HABITAT/FEATURES: This popular 82-acre city park situated along Squaw Creek in Ames contains a remnant of one of the finest gallery forests in central Iowa. This unique woodland habitat and adjacent pastures makes it attractive to over 50 nesting birds and at least 100 migrants. It includes thickets, upland woods component, and savanna-like settings.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Painted Bunting; nesting Broad-winged and Cooper's Hawks; most of our migrant warblers including Worm-eating, Golden-winged, Mourning and Connecticut; most of the woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers; Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets; Winter and Carolina Wrens; Summer and Scarlet Tanagers; and many sparrows including Fox and Lincoln's.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Sidewalks occur in the manicured south end of the park, and a hard surface bike trail and other hiking trails wind through the more natural woodland at the northern half of the park allowing easy accessibility. Brookside is best known for its large concentration of migrant passerines, particularly during May and September, and it is a great place to find upper-canopy dwellers like Blue-headed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler. A male Painted Bunting frequented this vicinity in 2006 and 2007. An excellent article, Birding Brookside Park in Ames by Shane Patterson, which includes a map and descriptions of the area's best birding spots, can be found at www.iowabirds.org/places/brookside.asp.

CONTACT: Ames Parks and Recreation,
Community Center
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010
515-239-5350



22 MCFARLAND PARK

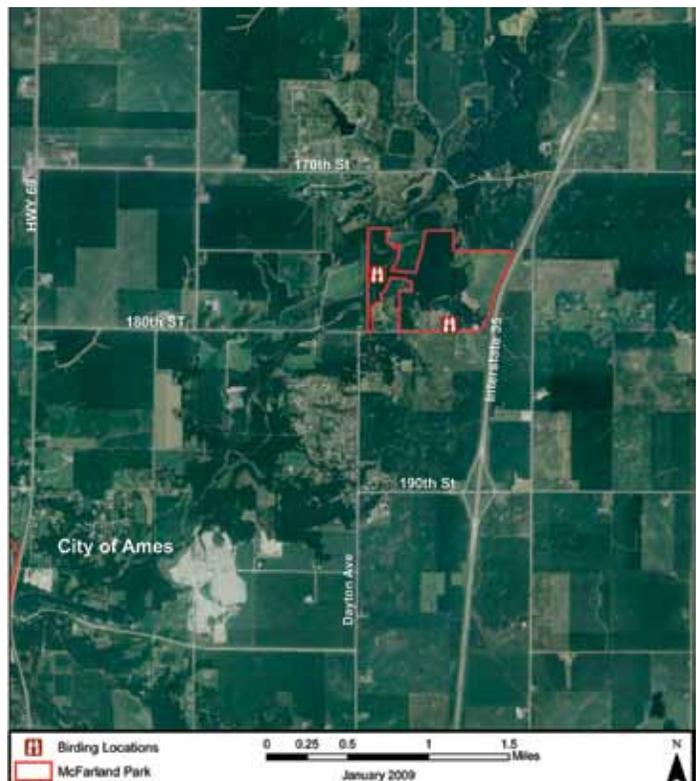
HABITAT/FEATURES: This 200-acre area contains a variety of habitats that make it attractive to at least 70 nesting birds and over 100 migrants. It includes a small lake, upland oak and riparian woodlands, along with prairie remnants and restorations.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Great Blue Heron; Bald Eagle; American Woodcock; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Barred Owl; Wood Thrush; Eastern Bluebird; Scarlet Tanager; American Redstart; Eastern Towhee; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Orchard Oriole; Sedge Wren; Dickcissel; and Eastern Meadowlark.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The park features 5.5 miles of hiking trails, three primitive campsites, picnic areas, and the Story County Conservation Center, which serves as the headquarters for Story County Conservation. Trail maps are available at the center. Hiking trails wind through much of the park for easy accessibility. Primitive camping sites are available by reservation. The sky-dance of the woodcock can be witnessed here by early April. A year-round bird-feeding station at the park Center provides good viewing of species like Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, and a variety of woodpeckers.

CONTACT: Story County Conservation
56461 180th St.
Ames, IA 50010
515-232-2516
www.storycounty.com
Click on Conservation and Parks



BIRD LIST

Modified from FIELD CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Revised 2005, Copyright © 2005 by Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

All rights reserved. This checklist conforms to The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed., and its supplements.

REGULAR SPECIES (276) (recorded in at least 8 of last 10 years)

ANATIDAE – DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Ross's Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck

PHASIANIDAE – PARTRIDGE, GROUSE & TURKEY

Gray Partridge
Ring-necked Pheasant
Wild Turkey

ODONTOPHORIDAE – QUAIL

Northern Bobwhite

GAVIIDAE – LOONS

Common Loon

PODICIPEDIDAE – GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe

PELECANIDAE – PELICANS

American White Pelican

ACROCORACIDAE – CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant

ARDEIDAE – HERONS, BITTERNS, & ALLIES

American Bittern
Least Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

CATHARTIDAE – NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

ACCIPITRIDAE – HAWKS & EAGLES

Osprey
Mississippi Kite
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle

FALCONIDAE – FALCONS

American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon

RALLIDAE – RAILS & COOTS

Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot

GRUIDAE – CRANES

Sandhill Crane

CHARADRIIDAE – PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer

RECURVIROSTRIDAE – AVOCETS

American Avocet

SCOLOPACIDAE – SANDPIPERS & ALLIES

Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Lesser Yellowlegs
Upland Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
American Woodcock
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope

LARIDAE – GULLS & TERNS

Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Sabine's Gull
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern

COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS & DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove

CUCULIDAE – CUCKOOS

Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

STRIGIDAE – OWLS

Eastern Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

CAPRIMULGIDAE – GOATSUCKERS

Common Nighthawk
Whip-poor-will

APODIDAE – SWIFTS

Chimney Swift

TROCHILIDAE – HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

ALCEDINIDAE – KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

PICIDAE – WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird

LANIIDAE – SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Shrike

VIREONIDAE – VIREOS

White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

CORVIDAE – JAYS & CROWS

Blue Jay
American Crow

ALAUDIDAE – LARKS

Horned Lark

HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS

Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow

PARIDAE – CHICKADEES

Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse

SITTIDAE – NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch

CERTHIIDAE – CREEPERS

Brown Creeper

TROGLODYTIDAE – WRENS

Carolina Wren
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren

REGULIDAE – KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

SYLVIIDAE – GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

TURDIDAE – THRUSHES

Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin

MIMIDAE – THRASHERS (MIMICS)

Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher

STURNIDAE – STARLINGS

European Starling

BOMBYCILLIDAE – WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing

PARULIDAE – WOOD WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat

THRAUPIDAE – TANAGERS

Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager

EMBERIZIDAE – SPARROWS & ALLIES

Spotted Towhee
Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Lapland Longspur
Smith's Longspur
Snow Bunting

CARDINALIDAE – CARDINALS & ALLIES

Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel

ICTERIDAE – BLACKBIRDS

Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole

FRINGILLIDAE – FINCHES

Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

PASSERIDAE – OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow

CASUAL SPECIES (28)

(recorded in 4 to 7 of last 10 years)

Cinnamon Teal
Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
White-faced Ibis
Prairie Falcon
King Rail
Yellow Rail
Common Moorhen
Whimbrel
Red Knot
Red Phalarope
Laughing Gull
Mew Gull
Iceland Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Least Tern
White-winged Dove
Barn Owl
Snowy Owl
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
American Pipit
Worm-eating Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll

ACCIDENTAL SPECIES (28)

(recorded in less than 4 of last 10 years)

Clark's Grebe
Brown Pelican
Glossy Ibis
Wood Stork
Black Vulture
Ferruginous Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Black-necked Stilt
Little Gull
Black-headed Gull
California Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Parasitic Jaeger
Burrowing Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Bewick's Wren
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Varied Thrush
Bohemian Waxwing
Western Tanager
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Blue Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Pine Grosbeak
Hoary Redpoll
Evening Grosbeak
Eurasian Tree Sparrow

