



## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Dallas County

Printed on 8/21/2019

### 250th St. Sod Farm (eBird Hotspot)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.674122,-93.9068749

**Ownership:** Private (see directions for access)

**Description:**

**Habitat:** bluegrass sod

**Directions:** 1 mile south and 2 miles east of Dallas Center along T Avenue and 250th Street,

**Amenities:**

### Beaver Bottoms Wetland (restricted) (Important Bird Area)

**GPS Coordinates:** ,

**Ownership:** Private (see directions for access)

**Description:** Private land -- no access.

**Habitat:**

**Directions:**

**Amenities:**

### Beaver Lake (eBird Hotspot)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.5283934,-94.2146603

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** 34 acre lake and surrounding grassland. There are three entrances to parking lots.

**Habitat:** Lake and grassland.

**Directions:** From Dexter, 1.5 miles north on Del Rio Road (east edge of Dexter).

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Camping |

### Big Bend Area

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.607303086954,-94.236803058302

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** Located 2 miles north of Redfield, Big Bend's 640 acre wildlife area is open to hunting, fishing, bird watching, nature appreciation, canoeing and hiking on undeveloped trails through re-established prairie and an oak-hickory forest.

**Habitat:** Over 322 unique and diverse plant species have been documented at Big Bend, with at least 9 species which are listed as rare. Plant enthusiasts should keep their eyes open for creeping bush clover, wild honeysuckle, three seeded mercury, sedge, woodland horsetail and ebony spleenwort. You might also find Wild Senna, Hoary Tick Trefoil, Yellow Pimpernel and Cream White Gentian.

**Directions:** West of Redfield, Iowa Go north from Redfield on County Road P46 for ½ mile to the junction with Linden Road. Turn west (left) on Linden Road and proceed west for 2 miles to the junction with Cadet Ct. (This is a "Y" intersection with the left leg of the "Y" being Cadet Ct.). Follow Cadet Ct. the

short distance to the parking lot which is at the end of the road on the right.

**Amenities:** Parking |

### **Brenton Arboretum (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.6620761,-93.9868355

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:**

**Habitat:**

**Directions:** South of Dallas Center on R16 then west on Palo Cir/260th St for 1.3 miles

**Amenities:**

### **Brenton Slough**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7332124263877,-93.8218688964844

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:**

**Habitat:**

**Directions:** Just south of Granger in northeast Dallas Co. At the south edge of Granger, take Xavier Rd. about two miles south from Hwy. 141, past 200th St., to the water on both sides of the road. The west side is usually more productive.

**Amenities:**

### **Crellin WLA**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7246097533695,-94.0519237500848

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** This area is a "walk-in" heavily wooded riparian forest along the North Raccoon River.

**Habitat:** Major tree species are Ash, Cottonwood, Silver Maple, Box Elders and Willows. The area is used by a host of wildlife species such as deer, wood ducks, and wild turkey.

**Directions:** Travel west from Minburn on County Road F31 and cross the North Raccoon River. The first intersection west of the river is with Lexington Road. Turn south (left) on Lexington Road and proceed about one mile to the entry sign.

**Amenities:**

### **Dale Maffitt Reservoir (Dallas Co.) (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.5157374,-93.7946606

**Ownership:** Other Public

**Description:** Dale Maffitt Reservoir is a 200-acre lake that sits amongst the tall oaks overlooking Des Moines Water Works' L.D. McMullen Water Treatment Plant. The lake, primarily located in Polk County, also has corners that reach into Warren, Dallas and Madison Counties. The lake, the park and surrounding watershed total nearly 1,500 acres.

**Habitat:** Lake, timber, and grassland.

**Directions:** From Highway 5 in southwest Des Moines, take the exit to Maffitt Lake Road and proceed west 1.5 miles to the reservoir and park.

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking | Trails |

### **Glissman Conservation Area**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.571670869577,-94.1039028181694

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** The 62 acres of prime land that is Glissman Conservation Area was donated to the Dallas County Conservation Board by Hans Glissman in 1991. You will find good populations of wildlife and a wide diversity of plant species. Significant geological sites are also present. Recreational opportunities might include bird watching, hiking, fishing, picnicking and mushroom hunting. Also located on the property is a house providing a panoramic view of the pond and valley. The house has been restored and is now used as a short-term rental lodge.

**Habitat:** There are 52.1 acres consisting of mid-age oaks and hickory woodlands. Approximately 2.5 acres are in grasslands and woodland areas. There is a 7.5 acre pond.

**Directions:** Glissman Conservation Area 32185 Panther Creek Road Adel, IA From Adel, go west on County Road F60, about three miles to the junction with Panther Creek Road. Turn south on Panther Creek Road and proceed to a "T" intersection. Turn left at this intersection to stay on Panther Creek Road. After the left turn, the road will go east for about ¼ mile and then it bends back to the right. Watch for the entrance to the area which will be on the west (right) side of the road, just before the road bends to the east.

**Amenities:** Parking | Trails |

### **Green Acres sod farm (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.6536811,-93.9290239

**Ownership:** Private (see directions for access)

**Description:**

**Habitat:**

**Directions:** SE of Dallas Center. On the east side of S Avenue just south of 260th Street. The property is bisected by the Raccoon River Valley bike trail.

**Amenities:**

### **Hanging Rock Park (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.5760949,-94.207069

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** The Hanging Rock area is comprised of 469 acres and is located 1/2 mile south of Redfield along the Middle and South Raccoon Rivers. Named for the sandstone rocks overhanging the Middle Raccoon River running through the park, the area is steeped in history.

**Habitat:** The north half of the park is a refuge with interpretive farm buildings, an astronomical rock clock, and a link to the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The land includes prairie, savanna and riparian areas

along the Middle Raccoon River. The south half of the park is open to hunting and contains a 10 acre wetland and canoe/kayak access to the South Raccoon River.

**Directions:** The park is located in the southwest part of the town of Redfield.

### **Public Hunting Area**

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

### **Ingersoll Slough**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7368952740673,-93.825216293335

**Ownership:** Private (see directions for access)

**Description:** Private land -- no access other than from the roadside. The site has hosted an interesting variety of waterfowl and warblers.

**Habitat:** Shallow wetland and timber.

**Directions:** On the west side of Xavier Ave. across from Brenton Slough. This is just to the south and west of Granger. From Highway 141, turn left on Xavier and proceed about 1.5 miles to a bridge that crosses Beaver Creek. Brenton Slough is on the east side and Ingersoll Slough is on the west side.

**Amenities:**

### **Kuehn Conservation Area (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.5627945,-94.1295558

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** Wide variety of habitats comprising nearly 800 acres.

**Habitat:** The Kuehn area includes native and re-established prairie, riparian and upland forests, a nature center, unique geological formations, archaeological sites and interpretive trails.

**Directions:** From I-80, take the Earlham exit (Exit 104) and proceed north to I Ave. Stay northbound for just over a mile to a four-way stop intersection. Turn west (left) onto Bear Creek Rd. Follow Bear Creek Rd. for 1/2 mile. The road will turn north, and become Houston Trail. Houston Trail dead-ends at the park. Coming from County Rd. F60, between Adel and Redfield, turn south on H Ave., about 5 1/2 miles west of Adel (or two miles east of Redfield). Proceed on H Ave. for about four miles to the junction with Bear Creek Rd. Turn east (left) onto Bear Creek Rd. and proceed 1/2 mile to junction with Houston Trail. This is a "T" intersection. Turn north (left) at the "T" and go about 1 3/4 mile to the park.

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

### **Marsh Farm Wetland (private property) (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7033255,-93.8583255

**Ownership:** Private (see directions for access)

**Description:** 98 acre Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP) area. Contains a 25 acre wetland and 50 acres of native grasses and forbs. Private property, so no walk-in access but easily viewed from the road.

**Habitat:** Shallow wetland.

**Directions:** From highway 44, go north on R30 one mile and turn left (west) on 230th 1/4 mile.. The

wetland is on the north side of the road.

**Amenities:**

**Middle Raccoon River PWA - Knapp Tract**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.6127215158456,-94.2517569079064

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** 190 acres of grassland and wooded river edge.

**Habitat:** Grassland and wooded river edge.

**Directions:** From Linden (southwest Dallas County), go 1/2 mile east on Highway F51 to Beaumont Avenue, then south 2 miles to parking lot.

**Amenities:**

**North Raccoon River WA - Snyder Tract**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7357509430857,-94.0572252252605

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** The North Raccoon River Wildlife Area Snyder Tract has both a public hunting area and a wildlife refuge area and is directly across from a paved boat ramp. The public hunting area is 115 acres in size and the wildlife refuge is 30.5 acres.

**Habitat:** The public hunting area is mostly river bottom timber along the North Raccoon River and also includes several old sandpits which do attract waterfowl. The wildlife refuge consists of oak and hickory upland timber.

**Directions:** This area is located about two miles southwest of Minburn. It is reached by going west of Minburn on County Road F31. Just west of the North Raccoon River bridge, a driveway on the south side of County Road F31 leads to a parking area. The wildlife refuge is found on the west side of Lexington Lane near the south end of the public hunting area.

**Amenities:** Parking | Trails |

**Saylorville WLA**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.8405633780915,-93.8476467115106

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** 10,904 Acre river lowland and adjacent wooded slopes. Frequent flood area after heavy rainfall. NOTE: The Site URL listed below produces a PDF document with maps of 11 Wildlife Management Areas. This particular area is Area 9.

**Habitat:** Flood plain and wooded valley slopes.

**Directions:** From Woodward, in northeast Dallas County, go one mile east on Highway 210, then south on U Avenue 3/4 mile, then east on 130th Court for 2 miles where County road support ends. The next 2-3 miles follow the Des Moines River to 145th Lane.

**Amenities:** Parking |

**South Raccoon River Access**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7198670080546,-93.8206958700903

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** 33 Acre woodland with river access for canoes. Also stream fishing and picnicking.

**Habitat:** River and stream woodland.

**Directions:** From Redfield, in southwest Dallas County, go south on Highway F60 one mile to Delta Circle. Go west 3/4 mile to the area.

**Amenities:** Parking |

### **Voas Nature Area (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.7554184,-94.0604782

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** The Voas Nature Area is a 705 acre park located approximately 1½ miles west of Minburn. The initial 265 acres were donated to the Dallas County Conservation Board by Lyle and Mae Voas. Both brother and sister had a desire to see their family farmland restored to a native prairie and forest condition similar to pre-Euro-American settlement. They intended for the area to become a wildlife refuge and educational center. Additional land has since been acquired, much of it for wetland mitigation initiatives.

**Habitat:** The Voas Nature Area is diverse in habitat, including 90 acres of oak/hickory forest with most of the remaining acres being a prairie and wetland complex.

**Directions:** From the town of Minburn, take Baker St, to 187th Rd west about 2 miles. The nature area is on the right.

### **Public Hunting Area**

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