



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Franklin County

Printed on 1/23/2022

Beeds Lake SP (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.7684388,-93.243928

Ownership: State

Description: 319 acre with 99 acre man-made lake surrounded by trees. Administered by the DNR

Habitat: Lake has loons, ducks, grebes, and terns during spring migration. Woods have nice areas for migrant warblers, thrushes, and sparrows. The west end of the lake sometimes has shorebirds.

Directions: Start Point: Intersection of IA 3 and US 65 in Hampton. Head EAST 2 miles on IA 3 to Nettle Ave. Turn right (NORTH) and proceed 1.8 miles to park entrance.

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

Buffalo Basins WMA

GPS Coordinates: 42.865811,-93.477204

Ownership: State

Description: 145 acre DNR site with a wonderful marsh when there is adequate water.

Habitat: Marsh with cattails and also grasslands. Good for ducks, geese, swans, rails, herons and shorebirds. Grassland likely hold some sparrows.

Directions: Start Point: South edge of Meservy on CR S14. Proceed SOUTH on S14 for 3 miles. The marsh will be on your left (EAST) and there should be a parking area--though poorly marked.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Coulter Marsh

GPS Coordinates: 42.7122096038424,-93.4370040893555

Ownership: State

Description: This is a State DNR 184 acre area consisting of 1/3 marsh and 2/3 upland grass. Some of the marshy area has lots of old vegetation along the edges.

Habitat: Marsh and woods with lots of grasses. Good for ducks, geese, swans, rails, shorebirds, herons, and egrets.

Directions: Start Point: Intersection of I-35 and IA 3. Go 2 miles WEST to Dogwood Ave. Turn left (SOUTH) and proceed 2.2 miles. The area is on your left (EAST) and extended east and north. There is parking along the gravel road.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities:

Geneva Gravel Pit

GPS Coordinates: 42.701513,-93.129781

Ownership: Private (see directions for access)

Description: Large water-filled gravel pit with trees and grass along the road

Habitat: Water, trees, and grasses. Good for ducks, geese, grebes, loons and terns. Sparrows and warblers can be found along the road.

Directions: From Geneva go NORTH on CR S56 for about 1.5 miles. Turn left (WEST) on 120th Street. Proceed 1/2 mile to gravel pit on the NORTH side of the road.

Amenities: Parking |

Hampton Cemetery (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.7616335,-93.2002831

Ownership: City

Description: Large city owned cemetery in Hampton. Lots of evergreens.

Habitat: Area is full of old spruces, cedars, and pines. Has been good for crossbills and Red-breasted nuthatches as well as numerous other species in season.

Directions: The cemetery at Hampton is to the north on Highway 65 about a block south of the Casey's on the northern end of Hampton. It is located east of the highway and is an old established cemetery with lots of very old pines. Parking is available along the cemetery roads.

Amenities: Parking |

Interstate Lake

GPS Coordinates: 42.7288567472319,-93.4170913696289

Ownership: County

Description: 26 acre area with a 20 acre "borrow pit" (pond/lake) along I 35

Habitat: Lake with trees surrounding it. Ducks, grebes, greece, terns, and swallow in migration. Pleasant place for lunch. Warblers and Flycatchers also seen here.

Directions: Start point: Intersection of I-35 and IA 3. Proceed WEST on IA 3 1 miles. At Eagle Ave turn left (SOUTH) and proceed 1 mile. Interstate Lake will be on your left.

Amenities: Parking |

Maynes Grove (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.6747917,-93.2067623

Ownership: County

Description: 280 acre county park with upland timber, a pond, and some grassland

Habitat: Great woods for birding. Numerous evergreen plantings have made this great place for N. Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls in the winter.

Directions: Start point: Intersection of IA 3 and US 65. Head straight SOUTH on US 65 for 4.5 miles. Park entrance will be on you right (WEST) side.

Amenities: Restrooms | Parking | Trails |

Prairie Bridges City Park

GPS Coordinates: 42.564329,-93.056378

Ownership: City

Description: Great birding location on the north edge of Ackley. Northern Part has many little water area-a remnant of an former gravel pit.

Habitat: Woods and water. Wonderful park with a lot of opportunity for spotting birds especially in migration.

Directions: Start Point: Intersection of CR S56 and IA 57 on the north side of town. Proceed .2 mile NORTH to the FIRST entrance to the park (campground area). Lots of trees. The SECOND is .3 miles further NORTH and again the entrance is on you your left (WEST) side. This part of the park is outstanding with numerous ponds, trees, and open areas.

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

WKW County Park (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.7729753,-93.1778812

Ownership: County

Description: County park with 54 acres of heavy timber located NE of Hampton

Habitat: Heavy timbered area good for wood birds in season

Directions: Start Point: Intersection of IA 3 and US 65 in Hampton. Head NORTH 2.3 miles on US 65 to C31/170th Street. Turn right (EAST) and proceed 1 mile to Quail Ave. Turn right (SOUTH) and proceed .1 miles on Quail Ave. Park will be on your left (EAST).

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