



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Guthrie County

Printed on 6/26/2026

Bays Branch WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.7450608,-94.3220901

Ownership: State

Description: This 990 acre state wildlife area offers excellent waterfowl and upland bird hunting and viewing.

Habitat: Marsh, lake, upland and timber areas.

Directions: About 3 miles northeast of Panora. From Panora. Take Highway 4 north to 200th St. Turn east and go about 2 miles to the lake.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Elk Grove WMA (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.7533854362746,-94.7000885009766

Ownership: State

Description: 1,600 acre timber with four parking lots. Downloadable map at:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CDEQFjABahUKEwj-nNud5qvHAhWBD5IKHWjKAUA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iowadnr.gov%2Fportals%2Fidnr%2Fuploads%2Fwildlife%2Fwmamaps%2Felk_grove.pdf%3Famp%3Btabid%3D1221&ei=yI_PVf6YJYGfyATolleABA&usg=AFQjCNF8RvPdDD3OoTS_ZeTir1N2MgJphA&bvm=bv.99804247,d.aWw

Habitat: Mostly timber, with four small ponds.

Directions: In northwest Guthrie Co. Northwest of Guthrie Center, follow F-32, seen on the Iowa highway map, six miles west from N-70 to Dogwood Ave. There is a parking area just north at Dogwood's first bend right, and also farther along Dogwood, about a mile north of its bend left. Finally, continue north on Dogwood to 165th St., and turn west 1.5 miles to a parking spot with a lane leading into the area.

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Lakin Slough WMA (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 41.7844331,-94.3228626

Ownership: State

Description: 345 acre shallow marsh with some timber. Downloadable pdf map at:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CB8QFjAAahUKEwj8hqD_66vHAhXKFZIKHfj2BD4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iowadnr.gov%2Fportals%2Fidnr%2Fuploads%2Fwildlife%2Fwmamaps%2Flakin_slough.pdf%3Famp%3Btabid%3D1221&ei=05XPVbzRFMqryAT47ZPwAw&usg=AFQjCNGmFSiRCRgVj4HbNUbtg-TFHch3bA&bvm=bv.99804247,d.aWw

Habitat: Cattail marsh and timber. 3/4 marsh, 1/4 upland.

Directions: In northeast Guthrie Co. From Hwy. 4 just west outside of Yale, take F-25/160th St. two miles east to the slough. The entrance is on the north side of the road, and easy to miss. A trail leads off from the parking area. NORTH SIDE: Along 150th, just west of P-30/Wood Rd. (the next road east from

the above entrance), a lane leads into a boat launch with viewing of a large slough. A smaller lobe of water is viewable by parking along 150th just before the lane above, and climbing up the short embankment (there can be shallow water in the ditch along the road, requiring knee boots).

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Lenon Mill Wildlife Area

GPS Coordinates: 41.6681738070498,-94.3660354614258

Ownership: None listed

Description: 1,261 acre timber and upland wildlife area.

Habitat: Timber, upland.

Directions: One mile south of Panora, Iowa on Highway P28.

Amenities: Parking |

Long Pond (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 41.8059175614456,-94.3017053604126

Ownership: Private (see directions for access)

Description: Private cattail marsh.

Habitat: Shallow cattail marsh. As of 2015, mostly overgrown. With visible water in the past, this area has been a productive bird watching site.

Directions: In northeast Guthrie County. From its intersection with 1st Ave./Hwy. 144, at the south edge of Perry, take Hwy. 141 ten miles west to P-30/Wood Ave. Take P-30 south two miles to 140th St. and turn left (east) one half mile to the marsh.

Amenities:

Marlowe Ray Wildlife Area

GPS Coordinates: 41.6322587370974,-94.3033790588379

Ownership: None listed

Description: 187 acre timber and canoe-access. Trail head of the Middle/South Raccoon River Water Trail.

Habitat: River bottom timber.

Directions: Take Highway P28 south of Panora to 268th Street, then east to Winding Trail to its end.

Amenities: Parking |

McCord Pond WMA (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 41.8372939,-94.605075

Ownership: State

Description: 112 acre, 2/3 marsh, 1/3 upland. In the past has held large numbers of waterfowl in both spring and fall.

Habitat: Marsh and upland grassland.

Directions: From Bayard, 3 miles west on Highway 141, the south 1 mile on Highway F20 (Hickory Avenue).

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Nations Bridge Park

GPS Coordinates: 41.5750066076403,-94.3293857574463

Ownership: County

Description: 81 acre hilly timber. Camping, picnicking, hiking trails, stream fishing.

Habitat: Timber and river bottom land.

Directions: From Stuart, Iowa, north on Highway P28 4.5 miles. Area is on both east and west side of highway.

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

Sheeder Prairie

GPS Coordinates: 41.688666883753,-94.5875215530396

Ownership: State

Description: 25 acre virgin hill prairie.

Habitat: Hilly tallgrass prairie with more than 200 species of plants, including 30 grasses. Ninety-six bird species live on the reserve.

Directions: From Guthrie Center, west three miles on Highway 44, then north one mile on Highway N70 to 220th Street. Then west 3/4 mile to site on the north.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities:

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

GPS Coordinates: 41.7747278,-94.4621229

Ownership: State

Description: 920 acres of hilly timber and prairie, 17 acre man-made lake, 81 electric campsites, 39 non-electric campsites, rental group camp, family cabins, 12 miles of hiking trails, playground, swimming beach, lake fishing, electric motors only. Education center 140 acres.

Habitat: The rolling hills of beautiful Springbrook State Recreation Area abound with deer, red and gray fox, coyote, raccoon, beaver, muskrat and wild turkey. Almost every kind of bird that visits Iowa can be found here. Trails lead through 920 acres of prairie and woodland, near small ponds, the Middle Raccoon River and the beautiful spring-fed 17-acre, artificial lake.

Directions: From Guthrie Center, go north on Highway 25 6.25 miles to 160th Street. Then east 1.2 miles to entrance for the park. Continue on 160th Street one mile east to entrance to Springbrook Conservation Education Center facilities.

Public Hunting Area

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

Sutcliff Woodland

GPS Coordinates: 41.6566575137188,-94.6350288391113

Ownership: County

Description: 55 acres of hilly oak-hickory timber and 1 acre pond. Interpretive nature trail.

Habitat: Oak and hickory timber plus stream bottom land.

Directions: From Interstate 80 West, take Exit 76 at Adair and go north on Highway N54 about ten miles to Frost Lane. Turn right onto Frost Lane and go about one mile to 240th Street, then east to entrance..

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Whiterock Nature Conservancy (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.8155936,-94.6374321

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions:

Amenities: