



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Hancock County

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Crystal Hills WMA (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.2331179,-93.7638511

Ownership: State

Description: Pure natural area. Only the east-most pond is accessible to the public.

Habitat: 320 acres of upland grassland with several prairie potholes.

Directions: Just east of the city of Crystal Lake.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Crystal Lake (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.2281944988348,-93.7926864624023

Ownership: State

Description: Rural lake habitat with boat access, family park, and facilities on east side.

Habitat: Shallow lake with edge habitat on north and west sides.

Directions: On the north side of the city of Crystal Lake.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Camping |

Eagle Lake WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 43.119011,-93.729269

Has Site Guide

Ownership: County

Description: Mixed use site, with park, picnic area, trails, canoeing, hunting.

Habitat: Large marshy lake edged on west by extensive woodlands.

Directions: Between Britt and Garner, turn north off U.S. 18 onto Lake. Access is about 1 mile north.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Restrooms | Parking | Trails | Camping |

East Twin Lake (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 42.9282740177691,-93.7092590332031

Ownership: State

Description: Primarily hunting and fishing area, with access to Iowa River.

Habitat: Shallow lake with marshy edge and some broken woodlands on the east side.

Directions: Four miles west of U.S. 69 at Goodell, three miles east of Kanawha.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Forest City Settling Pond (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.2423266648852,-93.6515808105469

Ownership: City

Description: Drive-in access to two city settling ponds.

Habitat: Two large settling ponds.

Directions: On the southwest edge of Forest City. Take Quail Avenue south off B14.

Amenities:

Pilot Knob SP (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 43.2515398,-93.5584647

Has Site Guide

Ownership: State

Description: Multi-use State Park with shelters, camping, electric hook-ups, restrooms with showers. Lakes, woodlands, trails and stone observation tower.

Habitat: 700 acres of primarily woodland habitat with several lakes including Iowa's only floating sphagnum bog.

Directions: From Interstate 35, take the Highway 9 exit (Manly/Forest City) and turn west. Take highway 9 to 210th Ave. and turn south. There are signs to guide you.

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

Ventura Marsh WMA (Hancock Co.)

GPS Coordinates: 43.1190289813977,-93.5056686401367

Ownership: None listed

Description: Pure natural area. Primarily used for hunting and fishing.

Habitat: Cattail marsh wetland.

Directions: East end is in Cerro Gordo County in the town of Ventura. West end is in Hancock County - take 250th Street from Ventura west about 1.5 miles to the parking area.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |