



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Jones County

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Indian Bluffs WMA (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 42.2175446801585,-91.0698580741882

Ownership: State

Description: An 830-acre DNR wildlife area east of Monticello and south of Cascade in NE Jones County. The area is bisected by a gravel access road and features good trails in the western section. Contains wooded, rolling topography with some limestone bluffs and steep ravines; borders the Maquoketa River and contains a portion of Jordan Creek.

Habitat: Primarily mature woodland interspersed with smaller areas of savanna, grassland, and cropland. Habitat is excellent for migrant warblers and other woodland songbirds. Notable breeding birds include Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Northern Parula.

Directions: From the City of Cascade, take 1st Ave. W / Hwy. 151 Business west about one-half mile; then take Butterfield Road south about five miles; Butterfield Road ends at Indian Bluffs WMA.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Muskrat Slough WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.9939464,-91.2060928

Ownership: State

Description: 727-acre DNR wildlife area between Morley and Olin in SW Jones County. One of the best marshes in east-central Iowa. The northeast access road offers the best view of the open marsh. The south access offers a more limited view but those with tall boots can walk east through the marsh for a better view. The south access has a boat ramp, and a canoe or kayak can be an excellent way to view the marsh.

Habitat: Primarily marsh with open water, cattails, and wet meadows, bordered by shrubs and small woodlots. Excellent for migrating waterfowl and marsh birds in spring; American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, and terns are sometimes seen in migration. Notable breeding birds include Least Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow. Yellow-headed Blackbirds formerly nested. Wooded area along northeast access can be good for migrant warblers and other songbirds.

Directions: NORTHEAST ACCESS: From X-40 in Morley, take Main St./E-45 east three miles to 160th Avenue. About one quarter mile south on 160th, just past the creek, take the unmarked gravel road right (west) to a view of the marsh. SOUTH ACCESS: Return to 160th Avenue, drive south 1.5 miles to 35th Street. Take 35th Street west (right) less than one mile to 170th Avenue. Take 170th Avenue north (right) to its end at a parking area and boat ramp.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking |

Pictured Rocks County P (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 42.2078840127374,-91.1041688919067

Ownership: County

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: From Monticello, take Oak E [it turns into Co Rd 38 and veers SE] for 3 miles. Turn E on 190th and drive for about 2 miles. After Camp Courageous the road [it is now Park Rd] becomes steep, narrow with a number of tight corners. Park Rd is closed in the winter.

Amenities: Restrooms | Parking |

Wapsipicon SP (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.09858,-91.29004

Ownership: State

Description: A 391-acre state park south of Anamosa in SW Jones County. The park borders the Wapsipinicon River and features wooded, rolling topography with limestone bluffs, ravines, and several caves, as well as a large grassland. Amenities include hiking and multi-use trails, a campground, and a golf course.

Habitat: Many of the park's roads and trails wind through mature woodland which can be excellent for warblers and other spring and fall migrants, as well as typical woodland breeding birds. The southeast portion of the park features a multi-use trail through a large grassland with scattered trees and shrubby areas.

Directions: From the intersection of Highways 1 and 151 in western Jones County, take County Road E34 north about three miles. Just before crossing the Wapsipinicon River and reaching the City of Anamosa, turn right on Upper Park Road to enter the park.

Public Hunting Area

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